

# THE TIMES

35P

No. 66,004

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1997

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PAGE 33

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## BEST FOR BOOKS

Malcolm Bradbury on Kurt Vonnegut's last work

PAGES

Michael Portillo on the divided Tories

PAGES 38, 39



## METALIA SPEEDBREAKS

Anjana Ahuja with the team behind Thrust



## BEST FOR JOBS

GRADUATES 25K

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SPECIAL 36-PAGE SECTION

PAGE 19

PETER NICHOLLS

# Saudi lawyer tells of nurses' shock Brother 'seeks \$1.2m blood money deal'

BY DANIEL MCGRORY AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

THE brother of an Australian nurse stabbed to death in Saudi Arabia wants \$1.2 million "blood money" to spare the life of the British woman accused of her murder, a Saudi lawyer said yesterday.

Salah al-Hejailan, who represents Deborah Parry and her co-defendant Lucille McLauchlan, said that Frank Gilford had demanded that the two give \$500,000 (nearly £300,000) to a children's hospital and pay him the rest.

Mr al-Hejailan described the sum as extortionate, but said the two Britons — who worked with the victim, Yvonne Gilford — had agreed to the deal on Sunday. Both were said to be shocked by the scale of the demand and told lawyers that their families could not raise that amount of money. They nevertheless signed a binding document, a copy of which is being held by the British High Commissioner in Australia.

Mr Gilford is forbidden from speaking about the case under the terms of an injunction issued by an Australian court, but his wife and lawyers denied yesterday that he had waived the right to demand the death penalty. However, the Foreign Office confirmed that British diplomats in Australia had verified the document, although a spokesman added: "We cannot say what the financial terms are, as this is meant to be confidential."

Reports of Mr Gilford's secret deal came as British diplomats tried to discover whether Parry had been found

guilty of the killing last December. McLauchlan was on Tuesday reported to have been sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in jail for being an accessory, prompting promptings that Parry had been convicted of murder, which carries a mandatory death penalty. Mr al-Hejailan said that he did not expect the court to rule on Parry until next month.

Yesterday a British lawyer visited the two women in Damman Central Prison, where they were said to be devastated and sick with nerves, and the British Consul-General will see them on Sunday. In the meantime, the Foreign Secretary will discuss the case with his Saudi counterpart tomorrow — although diplomats have warned Britain not to meddle and the Saudi Ambassador in London has accused critics of demeaning his country's courts.

On Tuesday, Robin Cook described the flogging sentence as "wholly unacceptable" and while the Ambassador, Dr Ghazi Al-Osabi, made no comment on those remarks, he said: "We do not propose to change any country's judicial system and we will not allow any country to change our system." He emphasised that no final verdict had been reached in the case, which was still in an early stage, and any comment was mere speculation. "I appeal for restraint and reason," he said. "Sensitivity rather than sensationalism should be the order of the day."

As he spoke, McLauchlan's

parents were making urgent arrangements to fly from Dundee to Dharhan to see their daughter. Ann McLauchlan said: "We just want to be with her. She must be so frightened."

Jonathan Ashbee, Parry's brother-in-law, said that he had been making telephone calls all afternoon to find out what was going on. He added that discussions were being held with the Gilford family, but he did not know whether any agreement had been reached. Of the report that Mr Gilford was seeking \$1.2 million, he said: "Of course we cannot afford this sort of sum, but it is true, we will move heaven and earth to raise the money if we have to. Anything rather than the other appalling option."

Mr al-Hejailan was scathing of Mr Gilford, a courier taxi driver from South Australia, and said: "This should not become some sort of commercial deal, nor a banking transaction. This is a human tragedy. How can Mr Gilford turn an offer of goodwill to a charity from the nurses into a money-making exercise for himself? His demand is outrageous and extortionate."

Of Laurel Gilford's claim that her husband was still considering his options, Mr al-Hejailan said: "Under Saudi law, once he agrees to talk about money, he cannot go back and then demand the death penalty."

Flawed case, page 5  
Magnus Linklater, page 20

As he spoke, McLauchlan's



Boatswain, the product of 14 years of cross-breeding, with his owner Ken Mollett

## Unionists give way over arms

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 16 months of procedural wrangling, Northern Ireland's political parties were last night close to the breakthrough required to launch full-scale peace negotiations.

The breakthrough became possible after the Ulster Unionist Party abandoned its long-standing demand for guaranteed IRA disarmament early in the negotiations to demonstrate republican good faith. David Trimble, the UUP leader, conceded after a day of

TV & RADIO ..... 46, 47  
WEATHER ..... 24  
CROSSWORDS ..... 24, 48  
LETTERS ..... 21  
OBITUARIES ..... 23  
W. REES-MOGG ..... 20  
ARTS ..... 34-37  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 45  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 22  
SPORT ..... 42-46, 48  
BODY & MIND ..... 18  
BOOKS ..... 38, 39

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"Any more noise and you'll come down and watch the Lib Dem conference"

## Labour suspends Scots councillors

Nine Glasgow councillors at the centre of an alleged "trip-for-votes" scandal were suspended by Labour's national executive in London pending the drawing up of serious disciplinary charges.

However, many of the most prominent figures, including the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Pat Lally, said they would fight moves which one said had "put the verdict before the trial".

Page 10

## Rules for letting children die

Guidelines for withdrawing medical treatment from children and allowing them to die were set out by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

David Baum, President of the college, said: "We are forced to wrestle with dreadful choices. The list has been drawn up because medical advances make it possible to sustain life without restoring health".

Continued on page 2, col 5

Page 6

## True bulldog breed reborn

BY LIN JENKINS

AN ATTEMPT to restore the bulldog emblem of all that is great about Britain, to its former glory has been greeted with scorn by the canine establishment.

The efforts of one man to cross the breed and take it back to its Victorian stature, ridding it of modern traits which cause skin disease, respiratory problems and lethargy, have not been greeted with enthusiasm by registered breeders. They maintain that the Victorian bear-baiting dog, symbol of the empire, is unsuitable for modern life. The Kennel Club says people want couch-potato dogs go with their couch-potato lives.

While bulldog breed clubs and the Kennel Club are united in recognising that the breed needs to iron out some inbreeding problems, they do not think that it should return to its roots.

Ken Mollett now has the fifth generation of his reformed breed after 14 years

and is impressed by the improvement. "I am trying to breed a dog which is unmistakably a bulldog to look at, but which can enjoy a walk," he said. He is disappointed with the response from breeders, but not surprised.

However, he dismissed the idea that since he held up the



Crib, from an 1817 print

Victorian dog as an ideal, he was reviving aggressive characteristics. "It is paramount that they are trustworthy. That, and their health, comes before any aesthetic considerations. You have to go back to William IV to find the aggressive characteristics. Bear baiting was abolished in 1835," he said. His four children had grown up with the dogs.

Brian Leonard, of the Kennel Club, said: "There is a degree to which we want couch-potato dogs for couch-potato owners. People want an entertaining character not very interested in exercise."

Mr Mollett, 44, an engineering manager for a lighting company from Pincher, Middlesex, has bred the bulldog with bull mastiffs and Staffordshire bull terriers.

Vera May, who had Best of Breed at Crufts four times in the 1960s, is one of the few breeders to back Mr Mollett, saying: "People need to get back to breed standards."

## FROM THE SUPERPOWER AMONGST THRILLER WRITERS

# JACK HIGGINS

## THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER

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Michael Joseph

modernise the Labour Party, he added that said there was no room for "purists" in the Liberal Democrat Party and unless it modernised, it could sink without trace. The Liberal Democrats should not fall into the trap of complacency, self-satisfaction, timidity or an excessive concern for our own purity," he said. "If, because of these, we fail to play our part in the changes which are now happening, then our successors on May 1 could just as easily be not a triumphant breakthrough, but a mere footnote of history."

Mr Ashdown had had enough of sitting on the sidelines: talking without being able to do anything. "So where shall we be as the game is played out? Sitting on the stands, safe from the flying boots, clear of the mud?" he asked. "No, I'll tell you where we will be. Not spectators on the sidelines. But on the field, in the game,

and right in the middle of the scrum. When the next election comes, I want us to show people that we really have made a difference, just as we promised."

In a bold address, which earned him an enthusiastic standing ovation, Mr Ashdown hinted that the party might have to compromise on its preferred method of proportional representation for Westminster. Delegates backed a motion supporting the single transferable vote — the purest form of PR — but party sources signalled that they would eventually have to accept a less radical system.

But it was Mr Ashdown's warning about the need to drop the party's high tax

Continued on page 2, col 5

Conference reports, page 12  
Leading article and Letters, page 21



# Top gynaecologist played God with me, says patient

Stephen Farrell reports on the case of a surgeon who removed a woman's ovaries without consent

A LEADING Harley Street gynaecologist was yesterday accused of "playing God" after he admitted removing 35-year-old woman's ovaries without her consent.

Jacqueline Bartley claimed that John Studd, a leading champion of hormone replacement therapy for post-menopausal women, failed to tell her what he had done even after the operation, leaving her to find out from an insurance bill three weeks later.

Mr Studd, 57, a consultant at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London and known to colleagues as the "HRT King", faces being struck off if found guilty of serious professional misconduct. He has lectured at international conferences on hormone replacement and owned a car with the licence number HRT 1.

Mrs Bartley, now 40, told the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee that she was horrified that her menopause was triggered 15 years early after the private operation on July 23, 1992, at the Lister Hospital in London. "I felt my whole person had been taken over, that I was just a piece of meat and that's the way I had been treated. This man did not care anything about how I felt. I was just another patient. I didn't matter. I was just somebody in the operating theatre. I felt high. Luckily I have such a supportive family."

Mr Studd paid Mrs Bartley £32,500 and substantial legal costs in an out-of-court settlement two years ago after she issued a writ seeking damages for assault and battery. The controversy arose after Mrs Bartley, a primary school teacher from Nunhead, South London, agreed to an hysterectomy during corrective surgery to the womb and bladder.

Mr Studd admits removing her ovaries and fallopian tubes during the operation and inserting hormone replacement implants without her consent. However, he

claimed to have done so because he found signs of endometriosis, a condition in which the lining of the womb is found in other organs. He also insists he told her immediately afterwards.

Mrs Bartley said she had initially found Mr Studd a competent and attentive doctor. He had sat on her bed after the operation discussing the Olympic Games. She was adamant, however, that he had never told her what he had done and said she had only found out when she received the bill on August 5.



Jacqueline Bartley: felt like "a piece of meat"

detailing extra surgical and drug charges.

She said: "I thought it was either a mistake in my bill, or somebody else's bill. I then realised that he had taken my ovaries away. I was very, very distressed."

She and her husband, Mike, a chauffeur, confronted Mr Studd in his Harley Street consulting rooms on August 15, 1992, but allegedly found him concerned only with defending his surgical skills. "I asked him, 'Do I have ovaries?' He said, 'No, of course, you know you don't.' My reaction to that was, 'Yes, but you didn't tell me so.'

"He tapped out on his fingers all the things that he said he had supposedly done

for me. He said, 'I have cured your heavy periods,' from which I have never suffered. He said, 'I have cured your severe PMT,' from which I didn't suffer.

"He told me that he had found endometriosis and I asked him why he didn't use drugs to treat it."

She claimed Mr Studd offered to pay the cost of the operation, but she refused, taking civil action and bringing him to the General Medical Council, because "I wanted justice".

Rosalind Foster, counsel for Mrs Bartley, said the case struck to the "very heart" of patient choice and trust, adding that that Mr Studd was no stranger to controversy.

The committee was told that, in a letter to the GMC, the surgeon's lawyers pointed out he could never have sustained the pretence that he had removed only her womb, and never tried to. They insisted: "He does not play God, but endeavours always to put the best interests of his patients first."

The hearing was told that Mr Studd believed the surgery was necessary in his clinical judgment because it had reduced the chances of endometriosis recurring, and had cured her of heavy period pains and severe PMT, of which he insisted she had complained. In a note he wrote: "I have no doubts she had the right operations."

Miss Foster, however, insisted there was no urgent need for him to have removed the organs immediately without consulting Mrs Bartley or her husband. She said: "There is simply no medical or surgical justification for Mr Studd to impose his views, no doubt strongly and genuinely felt, upon Mrs Bartley."

A Lister Hospital staff nurse later told the hearing Mr Studd was a caring and professional surgeon who "at all times has the interests of the patients at heart".

The hearing continues.



John Studd and his wife, Margaret, arriving yesterday for the General Medical Council hearing and, below, his consulting rooms in Harley Street



## 'Wizards' guilty of £240,000 con trick

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE who used money from property and benefit fraud to fund expensive American trips to qualify as "wizards" with a religious sect were jailed yesterday.

William Kelly, 56, and his mistress Janice Willie, 60, amassed more than £200,000 from mortgage fraud and a further £43,000 from bogus income support claims.

The couple, from Hornbridge, Devon, visited Florida four times to study the Avatar system, which professed to offer a "natural path to self-evolution and self-responsibility". They returned as qualified "Master Wizards of Avatar", having spent more than £30,000.

They planned to preach a similar "gospel" in England, advertising as Vibrant Health, but were arrested after returning to Britain.

At Southwark Crown Court yesterday the Recorder William Boyce jailed Kelly for 15 months and Willie for six months. The couple were convicted on one count of conspiracy to defraud and nine of furnishing false information.

## Drug smugglers caught in Customs sting are jailed

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A GANG of drug smugglers who handed over a £10 million pound cargo of cannabis to undercover Customs officers have been jailed for between eight and 14 years.

During the case an informer claimed the plot was inspired by one of the ringleaders in the £26 million Brimstone Mat gold bullion robbery. Michael McAvoy, who is serving 25 years for the bullion raid, was said to have contacted one of the organisers from Long Lartin prison.

Exeter Crown Court was told that Customs officers tipped off by the informer mounted a sting operation to seize a cargo of cannabis en route from Holland. About four tonnes of cannabis resin was transferred from the yacht *Fata Morgana* to a tug crewed by four undercover Customs men. They had been waiting 30 days for the rendezvous and were nearly out of food and water.

The operation almost founders when the 56-ton tug sank in 13,000 feet of water in the Bay of Biscay after the pick-up in October 1996. The

## Boys of 10 youngest in court on rape charge

BY ADRIAN LEE

TWO ten-year-old boys yesterday became the youngest defendants to appear in a British court on rape charges when they were accused of attacking a nine-year-old girl in a laboratory block at their school in West London.

Another ten-year-old boy and an 11-year-old are accused of indecently assaulting the girl during the same alleged incident, on May 6, at the inner-city primary school, which cannot be named.

The case was transferred from West London Youth Court, in Hammersmith, to the Old Bailey, at the request of the Crown Prosecution Service. The four boys, who sat in line, were given bail until their appearance at the Crown Court, on a date to be fixed. No pleas were taken.

Relatives of the boys sat behind them and, as they were asked to give their names and ages, one of the four had to be helped with his date of birth. Their legal aid was extended.

A fifth boy escaped prosecution because he is aged nine, below the age of criminal responsibility.

## ITV rains on Auntie's perfect day

BY CAROL MIDDLETON  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC faced a wave of protest from its commercial rivals last night over a new promotion in which stars ranging from Elton John to the opera singer Lesley Garrett sing their endorsement of the corporation.

Advertisers and commercial organisations said the four-minute video, in which stars sing a line from Lou Reed's song *Perfect Day*, amounted to a campaign which gave the BBC an unfair advantage over its rivals. They plan to report the BBC to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary.

The BBC said the purpose of the video, estimated to have cost £2 million and being



screened on BBC1 and BBC2 until next month, was to show how it catered for everyone's musical tastes. All 29 artists charged a nominal £250 to appear. The promotion has been so successful that there are plans to launch it as

were also angry that the BBC planned to screen the video in cinemas nationwide.

Paul Brown, chief executive of the Commercial Radio Companies Association, said: "The BBC automatically enjoys, because of its public funding and the nature of what they do, a significant cross-promotional advantage." He said the video was clearly an advertising campaign because it was made for cinema and would be shown to cinema audiences for a fee.

An executive for the ITV network said: "It is a stunning piece of work, but we are not sure whether it is an appropriate way to spend licence-payers' money."

Lou Reed said he was delighted with the BBC's version of his song.

## PC's sex bias victory leaves force in the doghouse

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICEMAN's dream of becoming a dog handler was shattered because he was sexually discriminated against in a physical fitness test, a tribunal ruled yesterday.

Police Constable David Allcock, 37, completed an assault course 14 seconds within the limit set for women officers but 46 seconds outside that set for a man.

In a claim against the Chief Constable of the Hampshire force, PC Allcock argued that the extra one minute allowed for women was unfair. That meant he missed out on a possible job because of his sex, he told the tribunal.

The tribunal was told that PC Allcock, who is based at Totnes near Southampton, Hants, joined the force 17 years ago and applied for a job as a handler in January.

The fitness test was held at the force's training HQ in Netley and involved a two-mile run, an obstacle course and dragging a 500kg roller. On February 24 this year nine men, including PC Allcock, and a woman took the test.

PC Allcock, who is 6ft 2in tall, said: "I did the course in 16 minutes and 40 seconds and was informed I had failed the test. If I had been a female officer who had completed the course in that time I would have been informed that I passed the test and would have been given an interview for the job."

"I maintain that the test should be equal for everyone, that there should be one standard." He added: "The test should be whether you are fit to be a dog handler rather than a male dog handler."

Under cross-examination, PC Allcock accepted that since 1985 he had applied for a position of dog handler "seven or eight times", all unsuccessfully. For Hampshire Constabulary, Inspector Nicholas Cunningham,

who is in charge of the force's dog handling section, said the current test was first introduced in 1993.

He confirmed that currently the force had 29 male dog handlers and just one woman. The 16-minute time limit for men had been set after the average of 20 fit officers taking the course was clocked, Mr Cunningham said.

John Ord, the force's physical training officer, told the tribunal: "Female officers are allowed 17 minutes, the reason being that the tests gave them an allowance because of their physiologi-

cal differences. Since I have been with Hampshire police, in all tests that have been conducted females have a different amount of time for the running part."

He accepted police recruitment tests were currently under review but said he did not know if that meant the time differences between men and women would be removed.

After finding for PC Allcock, the panel adjourned the hearing to allow him and Hampshire police to discuss how they could remedy the situation. If the parties cannot come to an agreement, they will return to the tribunal at a date to be fixed.



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# Doubts that taint Saudi police case

*Defence lawyers say the murder case against two British nurses would not stand up to scrutiny in a Western court, reports Daniel McGroarty*

SAUDI investigators were certain that they had Yvonne Gilford's killers standing before them in the interrogation room at Dhahran police station. They claimed to have caught Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan using their murdered colleague's bank card.

What happened in the next 32 hours, however, has tainted the police case. Officers say they obtained signed confessions from the women that Miss Gilford was involved in a lesbian relationship with them. They also hinted at revealing the Australian staff nurse's money-lending operation, with which she was said to have extorted large payments and sex from young nurses.

Parry and McLauchlan's version of events at the police station is different to that of their interrogators. They say that they were sexually abused, beaten and threatened to make them sign bogus confessions.

Senior Saudi officials have admitted the police were so confident of the veracity of the confessions that they did not scrupulously examine the forensic evidence.

The accused were arrested at the Arab National Bank on December 18, a week after Miss Gilford was killed, and were taken to Dhahran police station.

McLauchlan, 31, from Dundee, claims that her handbag was taken from her on her arrest and that in the police station it was returned with Miss Gilford's bank card in it.

She said she was shouted at and called "a thief and a harlot", slapped on the face and breasts and ordered to remove her dress. She said she was asked about her



The nurses' lawyers, Peter Watson, centre, and Rodger Pannone, right, are ready to present details of inconsistencies in the investigation

sexual affair with Miss Gilford while police touched her intimately, and one officer said he was going to rape her.

Only after she signed a confession was she allowed to sit down and dress herself. In her statement to her lawyers she said: "After 32 hours without sleep, I am willing to do or write anything to stop the physical, psychological and sexual abuse."

Parry, 38, from Alton, Hampshire, claims to have suffered the same mistreatment. "I was told I had killed Yvonne because we were having a lesbian relationship. I was sobbing with fear as I had not killed anyone and she was my friend," she told lawyers.

Parry said that several policemen stroked her body and a cigarette was held close to her eyes.

Parry claims that, after hours of abuse, McLauchlan was pushed into the room and announced: "Debbie stabbed

Yvonne in the neck, back and chest."

No substantiating evidence of Miss Gilford's sexuality and her money-lending activities was produced in court.

Defence lawyers want to know why police did not reopen the files on a Filipino nurse stabbed in the medical complex a year before, whose

murderer has never been found. They also want to know what the police investigation discovered from security guards at the complex.

Guards operated their own money-lending scheme and defence lawyers said they told Miss Gilford not to jeopardise their lucrative sideline.

Five security guards were arrested before the two nurses. All were sacked. One disappeared and two, believed to have been on duty the night Miss Gilford died, were later found badly beaten. One is thought to be related to a member of the team who handled the confessions.

Defence lawyers are ready to present what they say are the glaring inconsistencies in the inquiry. Private investigators say medical experts who have examined the autopsy reports on Miss Gilford believe that the fatal knife blow was too powerful to have been delivered by a woman.

Not once during the trial did the Islamic judges study the evidence, the lawyers say. "All they looked at were the two confessions, which had been retracted. Never once did they examine how flimsy and circumstantial the evidence is," a source said.

A lawyer for Parry and

McLauchlan told *The Times* yesterday that they and Miss Gilford were told they could not leave the hospital complex without a supervisor knowing where they were going, and that they were often followed.

Yet the Saudi police allege that on four occasions the accused used Miss Gilford's stolen bank card to draw money from a cash machine.

Detectives found blonde hair gripped in Miss Gilford's hand after the struggle to fight off her attacker. Neither of the accused has blonde hair. Nor have police explained the man's gold bracelet found on Miss Gilford's bedroom floor.

One legal source said "the police were so confident that the confessions were enough that they got sloppy in their investigation."

"Their work would not stand up to scrutiny in a British or Western court but the Saudi judges did not examine the evidentiary material, just the confessions. Whether an appeal court does otherwise is a big doubt."



Frank Gilford, brother of the dead nurse

## Cook to discuss sentence

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ROBIN COOK will hold talks today that could determine whether the sentence of 500 lashes imposed by a Saudi court on one of the two nurses will be carried out.

In discussions with Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, Mr Cook will underline the abhorrence such a sentence has aroused in Britain. But he will make clear that the Government fully recognises the authority of the court and *shariah* law, and is hoping that judicial review of the case may lead to mitigation. He will emphasise

a tougher line towards governments that it considered violated human rights. Mr Cook's initial comment that the sentence on Lucille McLauchlan was "wholly unacceptable in the modern world" has been described by many Arabs as a blunt judgment that may anger the Saudi authorities, especially the Islamic courts.

However, Mr Cook knows that the case can be resolved only by quiet diplomacy, and that Britain is powerless to do anything except appeal for clemency.

BOTH nurses have pleaded with Saudi officials to let them work in the hospital wing of Damman central prison in an attempt to get out of their overcrowded cell.

Amid fears that both women cannot survive a possible further two-year legal wrangle, Lucille McLauchlan's brother, John, said yesterday that both women had weakened considerably over the last few weeks. He said that a British doctor who was allowed to examine the women last month said that they are now extremely frail

and are prone to potentially fatal infections if they continue to live in their cramped and cockroach-infested cell in temperatures of more than 45C.

Their only hope now, they believe, is to sell their skills to the Saudi authorities. Both women have already used their nursing expertise to tend to the ten other women and their children in their shared cell, but face rejection now.

Both are said to have lost weight and to suffer constant diarrhoea and stomach cramps, while Deborah Parry has been given psychiatric help for depression after inmates told how she woke in the night screaming.

McLauchlan, however, has defiantly denounced her jailers and conducts her meetings with her family in impenetrable Dundee dialect. She has also kept a diary.

Their poor diet also means both women have lost a great deal of hair. They wash by pouring a basin of water on themselves over open sewers. The lavatories are said to be choked with soiled nappies as many of the women there have their infants with them.

## Plea to use nursing skills

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE TIMES  
on Saturday

Wealthy lawyer is key player in trial

BY A STAFF REPORTER

IN THE nine months since the two British nurses were arrested for murdering their Australian colleague, only a handful of men have known the precise details of the case against them and the efforts to spare them from Saudi Arabia's medieval punishments.

The key figure is Salah al-Hejailan, the flamboyant and wealthy head of a leading Riyadh firm. He is one of the best-known lawyers in the country who sees himself as a constructive critic of its justice system.

His eponymous law firm has defended the nurses free of charge and paid for their families to visit them on several occasions. "We've spent hundreds and hundreds of hours on this case," said one of his employees.

His critics say he hopes the benefit will be that when Western corporations find themselves in conflict in Saudi Arabia they will hire his firm. He is well-connected in Saudi society; one of his brothers is the country's ambassador to Australia and is thought to have been a key figure in negotiations with Frank Gilford, the brother of the murder victim.

Now in his mid-50s, Mr Hejailan trained in America and Egypt and has practised as a lawyer for 35 years. He is the legal counsel in Riyadh for the British Embassy among others, and his firm is associated with prominent law firms in several countries. He has helped defend Britons in Saudi Arabia for more than two decades.

"I have settled small debts, provided legal service to them, looked after them in many ways and I have a special fund in my law firm for this sort of goodwill work," he said in a recent interview. "I am particularly interested in cases that can have an impression on the legal system." He believes the nurses' high-profile murder case has highlighted the "clash of civilisations" between Saudi Arabia and the West but says it could help reform the Saudi legal system.

Allowing the nurses to have lawyers present in court has already broken the mould which he hopes will be the pattern for the future.

Mr Hejailan has spent much of the nurses' trial flying all over the world, with visits to the South of France, London, Virginia and Alaska, all the time directing their defence from a high-technology mobile office manned by at least one secretary travelling with him.



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# Five new rules on letting sick children die

Doctors have been given ethical guidance on a terrible decision, writes Ian Murray

FIVE situations in which doctors should consider withdrawing medical treatment from children and allowing them to die were set out by a panel of experts yesterday.

The guidelines say the decision is warranted where the child is brain dead or in a permanent vegetative state; where care delays death without easing suffering; where the child survives so physically or mentally impaired that it is unreasonable to expect it to suffer further; or where the illness is so progressive and irreversible that further treatment is intolerable.

The recommendations have been

produced by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, whose president, David Baum, said: "We are forced to wrestle with dreadful choices. The list has been drawn up because modern medical advances make it possible to sustain life without restoring health."

The new guidelines say that agreement between parents and doctors about withdrawing treatment should be unanimous and the child should also be involved if old enough. "Children take great care of

their paediatricians and nurses," said Dr Baum. "They know when to give a nod and wink if they are ready to go."

Neil McIntosh, Professor of Child Health at Edinburgh University and chairman of the college's ethics advisory committee which produced the report, said: "Children usually come to the decision even before we approach them."

If parents want healthcare to continue even though their child is

in one of the five categories, the

college says the health team should go to court for legal backing to withdraw it. "If the healthcare continues in these circumstances it can become an assault," Dr McIntosh said. "The court can hear expert evidence and assessments from both sides and reach an independent decision. The parents do not have an absolute veto."

"Every paediatrician has to make decisions about whether to withhold treatment every year. By drawing all these perspectives together, what

we are trying to do is put these decision in context and come up with a common procedure that is appropriate."

Doctors must always allow children and parents the right to disagree and these difficult decisions should never be hurried."

The list was drawn up following a House of Lords select committee finding in 1994 that withdrawal of medical treatment might in future not be rare. Parents and patient groups, severely handicapped

youngsters, lawyers and religious groups were all consulted during the two-year deliberations.

Some of the guidelines were immediately condemned by anti-abortion and anti-euthanasia groups. Jack Scarbrick, national chair of the charity Life, said: "Some of these proposals are quite acceptable. There always comes a point when it is not only right to withhold treatment but it would be wrong to persist. However, there does appear to be a sinister side to this document — it appears to be promoting euthanasia under the guise of old medical ethics."

**Mother 'killed' by wasp is revived six times**

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN whose heart stopped six times in 15 minutes after she was stung in the throat by a wasp was saved by a teacher and two passers-by who gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage.

Monica Stewart, 31, was stung as she collected her two children from Ferguslie Primary School in Paisley, Renfrewshire. Each time her heart stopped, Jim Ellis, the school's assistant head, and Ima Jordan and Katrina Piggott who were also collecting their children, managed to restart it. Ms Jordan said: "I only knew what to do because I've just started a first aid class."

Ms Stewart had just collected her daughters, Christine, 11, and Natalie, 9, when a wasp began buzzing around her. She said: "I ran away from the children and the wasp went for my face. It must have gone into my mouth because I felt a nip in my throat and then coughed something up. And that's all I remember."

Ms Jordan said she and Mrs Piggott were waiting for their children when they saw Mr Ellis running over to Ms Stewart, who was unconscious. "He gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and we started to give her heart massage," Ms Jordan said. "One moment Monica was breathing, the next she had stopped breathing. Each time I felt her pulse there was no beat. Again and again we were successful in getting her heart restarted."

"It was a real fight to keep her alive, but it's a joy to see her recovering. What an ordeal for her and for her children, who saw everything that was going on."

Ms Stewart was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley and given an injection and tablets to ease the swelling in her throat. She said: "I've always hated wasps and bees and insects like that, but after what happened to me I never want to see a wasp again. They scare me still. When I feel better I plan to say a big thank you to the three people who saved my life."

## Funeral firms face 'cash for corpses' claim

BY ROBIN YOUNG

FUNERAL directors complained yesterday that unscrupulous competitors were offering "cash for corpses" at old people's homes.

Staff at homes had been offered money to place dead people in shrouds bearing the corporate logo of funeral companies, the Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors said.

Nursing homes had also been offered contributions to residents' funds if they registered deaths with a particular funeral company, thus virtually ensuring those firms future business, according to Tony Warburton, an executive committee member of the society.

The society blames the decline in undertaking standards on the growth of large commercial conglomerates, and has urged the Government to take action. Mr Warburton said "inappropriate, aggressive marketing tactics" were threatening professional standards across the country.

Mr Warburton, director of the East Riding Crematorium at Ooton, Yorkshire, and a partner in the Hull funeral directors John Parkin and Sons, said bigger businesses had tried to buy him out, but he had refused, preferring to adhere to "British traditions".

He said that the whole funeral profession would be brought into disrepute if the Government did not take action. He wanted funeral companies to be forced to disclose to codes of conduct.



The Right Rev David Sheppard and his wife, Grace, yesterday. He reiterated that poverty was a spiritual issue that ought to concern the clergy

## Bishop bows out with appeal on jobless

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

IN HIS farewell sermon last night, the Bishop of Liverpool delivered an impassioned plea to politicians and churchmen to fight the corrosive effects of mass joblessness. He also defended his belief that poverty is a spiritual issue.

The Right Rev David Sheppard, 68, bowed out at an emotional ecumenical service in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral after 22 years as bishop to the Merseyside diocese. He used the

occasion to send a message to the Government and senior ranks of the Church of England to adopt radical solutions to mass unemployment.

He told the congregation that he had once attended a public meeting where someone had asked him: "You know these powerful people. Why don't you tell them how things are?"

Bishop Sheppard said: "Well, I have tried to. Not always successfully perhaps. The biggest regret I have is this: when we came in 1975 there was mass unemployment in many parts of

the diocese. As I leave in 1997 there is still mass unemployment or dead-end jobs in those same areas. I pray the churches will run and run with the Report on Unemployment and the Future of Work. The report reminds us of the old belief that God has a calling for everyone — a calling to work, a responsibility to make their particular contribution — and that is why the report produces the bracing and costly call for enough good work for everyone" and shows how it is possible." The ecumenical churches'

report was published early this year.

Bishop Sheppard said that some people still wondered whether poverty was a spiritual issue and the rightful concern of the clergy. He quoted from a letter written to him by a parish vicar about a man who got a job after four years of unemployment only to find that his ability to keep that post had crumbled. Bishop Sheppard added that unemployment attacked "the very heart of somebody's humanity; it taps at their dignity. Can we say that it is not a spiritual issue?"

## Driver in fatal crash had worked 16 hours

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A LORRY driver who left a trail of carnage when the arm of a mechanical digger swung out in front of oncoming cars had worked for 16 hours and driven 500 miles, a court was told yesterday.

Mark Wade had no training or proper supervision and made a series of fatal errors before the crash, which left five motorists dead after the digger's bucket sliced through their cars at head height.

The roofs of the cars were peeled back by the bucket and four drivers and one backseat passenger were killed instantly. Those on the passenger side were only injured in the accident at Castle-an-Dinas, near Newquay, Cornwall, in December 1995.

Truro Crown Court was told that the 31-year-old driver had failed to secure the arm of the digger on his lorry either with a pin provided specially for the purpose, or a chain available as a back-up. The

jury was told that tiredness may have caused him to load the digger incorrectly, so that the arm was not lying flat against the bed of the lorry and could swing out when its hydraulic system failed.

A driver who saw the arm swing out as Mr Wade took a left-hand bend tried in vain to warn him by flashing his lights, but the Volvo transport carried on and hit four cars.

The court was told how the accident happened in the dark on an unlit country road and the victims did not have time to take avoiding action before the heavy metal bucket struck.

Mr Wade, 31, of St Columb Major, near Newquay, denies five counts of causing death by dangerous driving. Each charge refers to a victim of the tragedy. They were Gwyneth Moore, 31, an amateur runner, and Kristy Green, 19, a beautician, both from Bodmin; William Barratt, 54, an agricultural contractor, Lewis

Mark Trebilcock, 28, a farmer, and Hilary Cocks, 43, a chef, all from Newquay.

Bazeley Plant Hire, of St

Columb Major, and Chelston Plant Hire both deny charges of conducting an undertaking in a way which exposed others to danger.

Charles Barton, QC, for the prosecution, said that, although Mr Wade was nominally self-employed, Bazeley and its parent company, Chelston, bore a share of the blame because of the hours he worked and his lack of training.

Mr Wade had started work at 2.30am, 16 hours before the crash, having driven for nearly 12 hours.

Mr Barton added: "The oncoming drivers only saw the low-loader's dipped headlights and had no idea that an enormous object was coming towards them at a height of about 3ft."

The trial continues.

## Self-destruct disc aims to thwart video pirates

BY NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

A VIDEO disc that self-destructs, rather like the instructions in *Mission Impossible*, has been developed by researchers. The system could stop the pirating of tapes from rented videos.

The Digital Video Express (Divx) consortium, based in Virginia, is pushing the idea of developing the discs for the video rental market. It has convinced Hollywood studios, including Disney, Paramount and Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks, to sign up to the \$150 million project, according to a report in *New Scientist*.

The key to the development is an encryption system that scrambles the film on the disc. It is then unscrambled by a special player developed by Divx. An internal clock runs when the disc is played and disables it after 24 hours. The consortium claims that the discs will cost about only £3.

Not all consumer and entertainment electronics companies support the project, including Warner Home Video. There is also concern that the encryption system is of such a high standard that the US Government will ban its export on security grounds.

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Five people were killed by the digger, above. Wade allegedly failed to secure its arm

## Eight-mile putt puts records to flight

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE American golfer Brad Faxon has entered the record books with a putt that travelled 8½ miles in 23 seconds. He sent the ball rolling 120ft down the passenger cabin of Concorde as it flew at 11,330 miles an hour on a flight taking the US Ryder Cup team from New York to Málaga.

The challenge was set up by Captain Jack Lowe, a member of the Concorde Golfing Society. "The idea is to put as slowly as possible, giving Concorde time to fly as many miles as possible before the ball comes to rest at the back of the plane,"

he said. The ball rolled along the carpet, past bags of duty-free goods and seat legs in a perfect line. The longest recorded putt anywhere is 140ft, by Bob Cook at St Andrews in October 1976.

Faxon, 36, borrowed a hickory-shafted antique club to achieve his feat on one of the game's best putters, although at the last Ryder Cup he missed a six-footer to hand victory to his singles opponent.

Captain Lowe, an 18-handicapper, said yesterday: "It was a formidable achievement, and from the European perspective it does not augur too well for the defence

Ryder Cup golf, pages 44, 45

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# St Paul's finds modern creed is beyond belief

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY and worshippers at St Paul's Cathedral are puzzled why an unauthorised, "politically correct" version of the creed, the universal statement of Christian belief, has been inserted into services without their knowledge or consent.

Surprised churchgoers at 11am Holy Communion found themselves saying the new creed, in which the word "men" was omitted and the description of Christ's conception altered.

The Dean, Dr John Moses, admitted yesterday that an error had been made and said that the creed, last used on Sunday, would appear in services no more. "It appears that, on this occasion, we have made a small mistake," he said.

Canon Stephen Oliver, the precentor in charge of liturgy at St Paul's and a member of the General Synod's liturgical commission, decided to test the creed to discern any problems before it is debated again in the synod in November.

**AUTHORISED VERSION**

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty...

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man...

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

Nicene Creed used in St Paul's, taken from *Praying Together*, prepared by the Evangelical Liturgical Consultation, 1988

ber. Although the Dean was aware of his plans, St Paul's Chapter was not consulted. The issue was debated by the chapter yesterday, when the canons agreed that it had been a "valuable experiment".

One worshipper, who asked not to be named, said he was surprised that an unauthorised change was made to a particularly sensitive feature of the liturgy in a cathedral regarded as the flagship of the Church of England. "It is a politically correct creed," he said. "We were all most surprised to see it there."

The creed is a modified

version of the Nicene Creed, issued by the Council of Constantinople in 381. The new version is being examined by the General Synod of the Church of England for inclusion in a service book that will succeed the much-debated 1980 Alternative Service Book at the millennium.

The word "men" is omitted from the line "for us men and for our salvation". Christ is said to become incarnate "of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary", instead of by the power of the Holy Spirit "of the Virgin Mary".

In the Church of England, any change to the liturgy must, under the law of the land, be thoroughly approved by church members through their elected General Synod before it can be used.

One of the cathedral's clergy said: "It is more of a confusion than a punch-up. Some of us are concerned to know what is going on. One or two members of the congregation have raised questions about it with me. They came up after the service and asked whether there wasn't something funny about it."



John Moses, the Dean of St Paul's: "It appears that we have made a small mistake"

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Stowaway survivor to be deported

A stowaway who leapt from a porthole on a cargo vessel and survived for four hours in the sea before reaching Flat Holm, an island in the Bristol Channel, is to be sent back to the Dominican Republic, immigration officials have said.

The man, named only as Alexander, jumped into the Bristol Channel with his half-brother after being discovered by the ship's crew. The other man is not thought to have survived.

### Flights dropped

British Airways is to drop its Glasgow to New York and Boston service after losing £7 million in three years. It blamed delays in linking with American Airlines, which would have provided thousands of transfer travellers.

### Royal estate raid

Ramraiders stole clay pigeon shooting equipment worth nearly £7,000 from the Queen's Sandringham estate. They used a pick-up truck to smash through off-high-pitched, steel gates into a shooting school.

### Refugee jailed

Haroon Matovu, 40, a Ugandan refugee living in London, drove into a cyclist and then mounted the kerb and killed a 62-year-old woman as he tried to flee. An Old Bailey judge jailed him for five years and recommended deportation.

### River rescue

A ROMAN Catholic order is being invited to return to one of its medieval priories for the first time since it was expelled by Henry VIII 460 years ago. After a 35-year restoration project, Gloucester council officials have said that the 13th-century Blackfriars priory in the heart of the city could now be reoccupied by Dominican monks.

Bob Duncan, the chairman of the leisure committee, said: "The plan is to move the Dominican archive and the seven monks tending it — who are currently in Edinburgh — to a purpose-built addition to the Blackfriars monastery complex."

"It will be marvellous to have monks in the city again. In medieval times, Gloucester had five monasteries, 12 churches and a population of only 3,000. We would like to explain this history to tourists and visitors by using the Blackfriars buildings."

The council has put in a bid for £8 million from Lottery funds to build a new exhibition centre and a new Dominican library at the site, which after the dissolution became a private house, then a glove factory and a bottling works.

### Charitable tale

*Thomas the Missing Christmas Tree*, a story featuring Thomas the Tank Engine written by the parents of Jack Fenwick, 2, who died of meningitis, is published today at £1 in aid of the National Meningitis Trust.

### Neolithic find

A boy of 11 discovered a 5,500-year-old axe on the beach at Saltburn, near Redcar. The rare example of polished Lake District greenstone dates from neolithic times. James Fenwick found it while walking with his grandfather.

### Late delivery

A message in a bottle sent six years ago by two Britons on holiday in Corfu has been found on the banks of the Elbe in Germany. Paul Jennings, 17, of Canterbury, and his sister, Claire, 19, threw the bottle from a pedalo.

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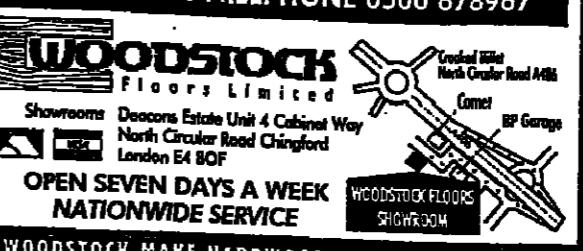
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## Graduate ran phone fraud on Internet

By PAUL WILKINSON

A COMPUTER studies graduate faces prison after he helped to set up a multimillion-pound Internet telephone fraud from his bedroom.

Omar Flatekval, 23, who has just been awarded his degree, "hacked" into the computers of the American Telegraph and Telephone Company, stole details of telephone charge cards held by customers and sold them on the Internet.

The scam is estimated to have cost subscribers with the international communications giant up to £10 million for calls they did not make over three years. It also cost AT&T \$17 million (£10.8 million) to put the problem right. Police found 61,500 calling cards logged on Flatekval's computer system and estimate that he made up to £50,000. Users posted cash in padded envelopes.

On Monday the graduate of Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, admitted conspiracy to defraud when he appeared at Newcastle Crown Court. The hearing was adjourned to ascertain how important he was in the conspiracy.

Outside court, Flatekval, of Cramlington, Northumberland, said: "I regret what happened but I don't consider myself a criminal. I haven't hurt anyone and I haven't affected the British economy."

# National maths targets too low, says Woodhead

THE Government's expectations of children in mathematics may be too low, Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, said yesterday as he disclosed wide variations in standards.

A report launched by Mr Woodhead found too little attention being given to mental arithmetic and learning tables. In one school, only one seven-year-old per class could write down a two-digit number expressed in words, while in another almost all could.

The Office for Standards in Education said in its report that Britain's poor showing in international comparisons suggested that even schools scoring close to the national average must have low standards. Mr Woodhead said primary schools had to aim above the present national targets if sufficient improvement were to be made.

He urged the Government's new qualifications agency to keep the standard of national tests under review. "If we are not expecting enough in the tests, then clearly we are not stretching children enough and aren't going to make up the gap with our international

Even primary schools doing well in league tables must try harder, reports John O'Leary

competitors." England and Scotland were in the bottom third of the 42 countries taking part in the latest international survey of mathematics.

The results of this year's national tests in mathematics, English and science, to be published today, are expected to show modest improvement. But performance in primary schools will be far off the Government's target for mathematics of 75 per cent reaching the expected level for an 11-year-old by 2002. Only 55 per cent did so last year.

Mr Woodhead said he believed the Government's target could be met with ease if schools adopted the teaching methods identified as success-

ful in yesterday's report. These included whole-class teaching, rather than the "destituting" over-use of individual work which often required children to "plough through" a succession of worksheets.

The prospect of more difficult tests was greeted with alarm by teachers' organisations. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "To keep changing the ground rules for national tests would only undermine the Government's standards drive and make it look foolish. We should stick to the 75 per cent target, which is challenging enough in itself, and then look again when we have met it."

Yesterday's report focused on the teaching of seven and 11-year-olds in Knowsley, and Greenwich and Newham in London. More than 160 lessons were observed by the local education authorities' own inspectors and those from Ofsted, and children were set specially commissioned tests.

The report said the results indicated progress since 1995, when nearly two-thirds of the schools surveyed were below the national average. All three authorities were in the bottom 20 for mathematics in last year's primary league tables.

The inspectors acknowledged that fluency in English might be a factor in pupils' poor mathematics because it could hamper understanding of questions, but Mr Woodhead said schools could not use pupils' backgrounds as an excuse for failure.

One lesson in ten was judged demanding for a seven-year-old, with a third of lessons limiting the range of numbers used to 20. Some schools did not expect pupils to learn tables because arithmetic could be checked by calculator, but teaching in the use of calculators was poor.

Where expectations were too low, that often reflected the limits of teachers' own knowledge, the report said.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, described the existing targets as "challenging" and said that changes to teacher training should help to meet them.

ive. However, an evaluation by academics at London University's Institute of Education suggested that Reading Recovery cost no more than other provision for slow readers and was particularly beneficial for the lowest achievers.

The scheme involves half-hour individual teaching over about 20 weeks. Trials showed that children from homes with few books who could not read at all by the age of six were in the average band for their class four years later.

Phonological training was found to be just as effective as Reading Recovery for children with less severe difficulties, but had no significant effect on literacy for the bottom group.



Terry Marsh and his fiancée, Gill Scally, arriving at court yesterday for the verdict

## Ex-boxer Terry Marsh cleared of grant fraud

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TERRY MARSH, the former world boxing champion, was cleared yesterday of a fraud charge which has already cost him his chance of a political career. It was the second time in seven years he had walked free from a court, having been acquitted at the Old Bailey in 1990 of the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his former manager.

This time a jury at Southwark Crown Court in South London took only 15 minutes to clear him of falsifying a student grant application after a two-day trial.

Mr Marsh, 39, resigned in April as Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for his home town of Basildon,

Essex, after he was charged. The prosecution related to his receiving more than £9,400 in maintenance grant and tuition fees in 1995 from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for a two-year Higher National Diploma course in computer studies at Guildhall University.

The prosecution accused him of deliberately failing to mention, when applying for the grant, that he already had a degree in politics and government at the same university, for which he was funded by Essex County Council. He was therefore not entitled to the grant.

The former IBF light-welterweight champion kissed his fiancée, Gill Scally, after the verdict, walked across to the jury of seven women and five men and invited them for a celebratory drink.

Outside the court Mr Marsh — a former firefighter who was dubbed "the Fighting Fireman" — said: "I am not relieved, because I have always been quietly confident." He added that he was disappointed with Tower Hamlets education department's investigation into the affair. "If they had contacted me, as opposed to contacting a newspaper, then a simple investigation could have been put, and then it would not have been necessary to go as far as it has."

**Girls may be taught to check for breast cancer**

By PAUL WILKINSON

GIRLS as young as 13 could be getting lessons in how to examine themselves for breast cancer in the first scheme of its kind in the country.

Education and public health officials in west Yorkshire are considering a pilot scheme for schools in the Kirklees area as part of a wider policy of improving the population's well-being.

Education service officers at Kirklees council and representatives of local health trusts are to canvass the opinion of secondary school head teachers, and hope to have the trial in place by next summer.

Gavin Tonkin, the council's head of strategy and school support, said: "The council has a strong line on a healthy environment and population and this was seen as a possible contributor to that. It was a result of people talking about health initiatives and was an idea which emerged from discussions between the education service and local health trusts.

"It was deemed a sensible idea to take forward." He said the council was not aware of any similar schemes in Britain.

"The next stage is to talk to secondary heads to see if schools will take it on as a pilot scheme and see what the advantages and pitfalls are. It has to be handled very sensitively. We are not going to be forcing any schools to take part. Ideally, we need a couple of schools to act as volunteers and talk with parents and governors about it."

He envisaged that a health education official would give classroom advice on how pupils should examine themselves. Initially the scheme would involve older girls of 15 or 16 or sixth formers, but it would aim gradually to increase the number of girls receiving the tuition, including those of 13 or 14.

Mr Tonkin added: "There is a lot of discussion to take place but there is a lot of interest on all sides. It would be part of health education in schools. We already have extensive drugs awareness programmes."

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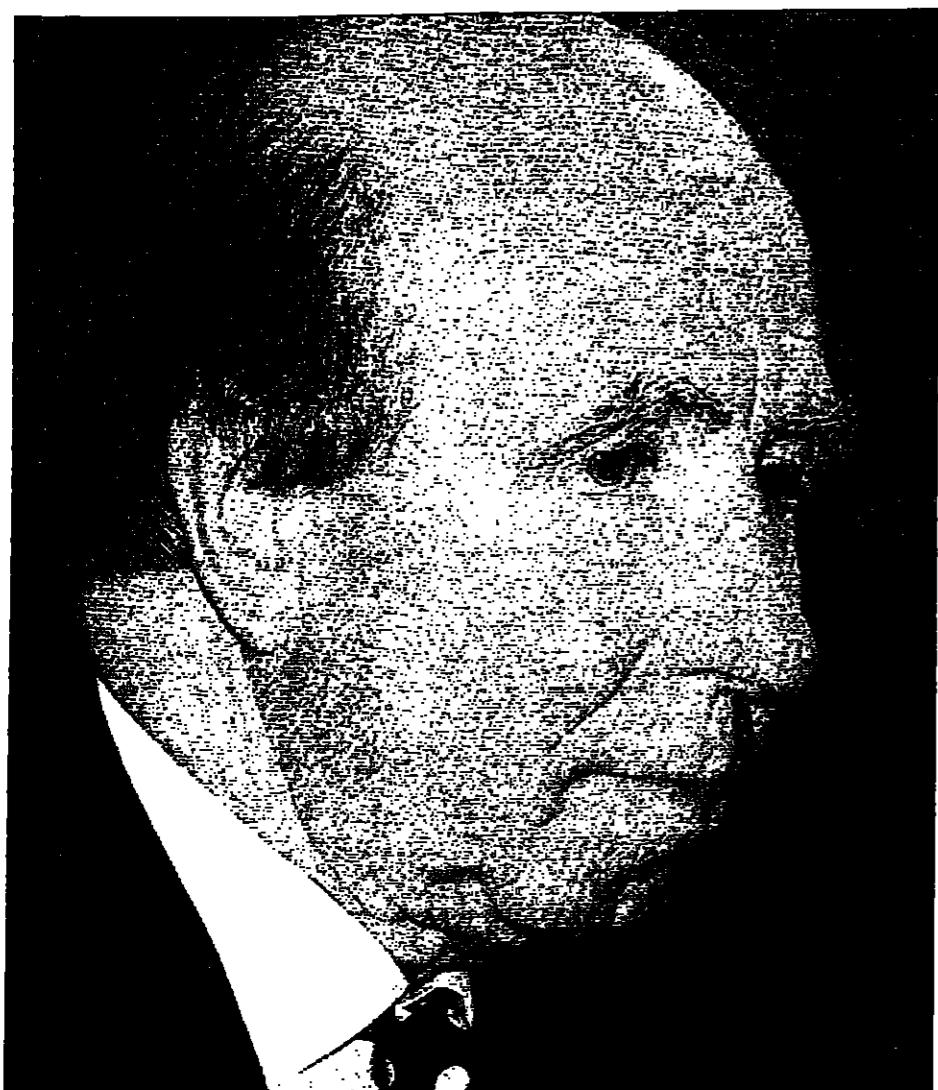
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The Lord Provost, Pat Lally, said he would remain in post and fight his suspension



## Blair faces legal battle over Scottish 'sleaze' suspensions

TONY BLAIR was facing the prospect last night of a prolonged legal confrontation with some of Labour's leading Scottish councillors as party leaders acted after an investigation into sleaze claims.

Nine Glasgow councillors at the centre of an alleged "trips-for-votes" scandal were suspended by Labour's national executive in London pending the drawing-up of serious disciplinary charges. But many of the most prominent figures, including the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Pat Lally, said they would fight moves which one said had "put the verdict before the trial".

Alex Mossan, the Deputy Lord Provost, served a writ at the Court of Session in Edinburgh and intends to call the

Two Glasgow councillors in alleged trips-for-votes scandal will defy leadership, writes Philip Webster

Defence Secretary, George Robertson, and the Secretary of the Labour Party in Scotland, Jack McConnell, to give evidence.

Mr Lally said he would remain in his position as the council's figurehead. "There is no reason why I should not continue as Lord Provost and I certainly intend to continue."

Mr Lally said he would use whatever machinery was open to him to fight his suspension. "I will also be further consulting with my solicitor in order to ensure that we obtain full disclosure of the allegations have been drawn up by Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, they will go before Labour's 11-member

making the allegations because clearly all of the information that was dealt with by the inquiry committee created the climate that led to today's suspensions. I do not think it's a terribly just way of dealing with things."

Mr Lally claimed that there were no "financial irregularities, improprieties or misuse of funds" in his office, which had been run in a similar fashion to that of his predecessors. After detailed charges have been drawn up by Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, they will go before Labour's 11-member

national constitutional committee. It will give those charged the opportunity to present their version and consider what disciplinary action is appropriate.

The allegations centre on the threatening of officials, failure to observe rules on the declaration of interests and the improper use of council funds for trips. Jean McCadden, a long-time rival of Mr Lally, has been appointed interim leader of Glasgow City Council.

After a meeting of the Labour group, among whom there was said to be "consternation",

she said she was glad that the report had finally been published. "We have had seven months of uncertainty which has not been good for the city," she said. The remaining councillors had the stamina and morale to run the city.

Mr Sawyer said "tough action" had been taken. "We said at the outset that this would be a thorough, fair and far-reaching report which would leave no stone unturned."

Bob Gould, the Labour leader, who was also suspended, said: "I am deeply hurt by the findings against me, especially after 40 years of unblemished service in the Labour Party." Mr Mossan said: "I see this finishing when I get justice and an apology."

### THE SUSPENDED COUNCILLORS

PAT LALLY: Glasgow's Lord Provost. Councillor since 1966. Has been embroiled in controversy for most of his political life. Is Lord-Lieutenant, the Queen's representative in the city.

DEIRDRE GAUGHAN: gave fellow councillors a faked Scottish Office paper that argued the case to retain schools, which she said she did not realise was a forgery. Escaped disciplinary action. Had owed £4,000 in rent on council house.

ELAINE SMITH: regarded as conscientious and hard-working. The claims against her related to alleged verbal abuse of council officials.

ALEX MOSSAN: Deputy Lord Provost, alleged to have been on unnecessary council junkets with Mr Lally.

GORDON MACDIARMID: leader of the council, responsible for clamping down on foreign trips.

JIM SHARKEY: left-winger involved in slanging

match during a public meeting, which led to police being called.

HEATHER RITCHIE: seen as an old-style Labour campaigner. Has denied allegations of involvement in an incident said to have taken place at a resource centre.

BOB GOULD: leader of the council. Criticised for failing to discipline errant councillors. The "whistleblower" on alleged corruption.

JIM MUTTER: accused of making unnecessary trips abroad while the council's parks and recreation committee, and to have indulged in factionalism against Mr Gould.

GORDON MACDIARMID: deputy leader of the council, responsible for clamping down on foreign trips.

DEIRDRE GAUGHAN: gave fellow councillors a faked Scottish Office paper that argued the case to retain schools, which she said she did not realise was a forgery. Escaped disciplinary action. Had owed £4,000 in rent on council house.

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JIM SHARKEY: left-winger involved in slanging

Alarm rings for

## Salmond calls for PR in local polls

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND NICHOLAS WATT

ALEX SALMOND, the leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party, ended his political truce with Labour yesterday when he seized on allegations of sleaze in Glasgow to demand proportional representation in local government.

Speaking on the opening day of his party's annual conference, Mr Salmond declared that PR would end Labour's stranglehold on councils throughout Scotland.

Mr Salmond pledged that he would "vigorously oppose" Labour in an attack less than two weeks after the SNP joined forces with Labour and the Liberal Democrats in the referendum for a Scottish parliament.

Mr Salmond told delegates at Rothesay in Argyll and Bute that it was inconceivable that Labour was unaware of the problems in Glasgow. He

said: "Back in 1995, Labour said they were dealing with the aftermath of Monklands by requiring every councillor in Scotland to sign a code of conduct. Presumably, every councillor in Glasgow signed that. Obviously, they could not have been too aware of what they were signing."

The SNP leader said that proportional representation could place political decisions in the public arena by creating "balanced politics".

Delegates will also debate the role of the Queen in an independent Scotland. Party activists from Springburn, Glasgow, are to call for a referendum to be held within the first term of parliament to decide if the Queen should remain as Head of State.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, page 20

## Mortgage Rates for Bradford & Bingley Borrowers.

Notice is given to all Bradford & Bingley Building Society variable rate borrowers, that the Interest Rate charged will be increased by 0.25%. This increase will take effect from 28 September 1997 for all variable rate borrowers apart from those mentioned in the next paragraph.

Borrowers who are entitled to written notice, and borrowers whose mortgages are regulated under the terms of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, will be notified by individual letter, of when the increase will apply.

This rate increase does not apply to Mortgages Direct borrowers who will be notified by individual letter of the increase in their rate of interest and the date this increase becomes effective.

Under the Society's annual review scheme, borrowers will be advised of the new Monthly Mortgage Payment on the annual mortgage statement that is issued in January.

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# Older men have better chance of founding dynasty

**OLDER** men who marry younger wives in the hope of producing a male heir have a good chance of success, according to a study of birth records. It shows that women who are significantly younger than their husbands have a greater chance of producing boys as their firstborn children. The opposite applies to women who are older than their husbands.

The discovery may help to explain why the proportion of male children tends to rise significantly in times of war. During both world wars there was a surge in male births. There was also an increase in the age difference between husbands and wives.

Men who have married much younger women and had a son as their firstborn child include Dudley Moore, 62, who has a two-year-old son, Nicholas, with his wife, Nicole, 32. Lord Bethell, 58, and his wife Bryony, 31, have a son, John. Bruce Forsyth, 69, and his wife, Wilnelia, 39, have a son, JJ, who is 11.

The study, by Dr John Manning and colleagues from the Population Biology Research Group at Liverpool University, is based on 30 families from the Liverpool area. The team reports in *Nature* that the age gap between the parents is significantly correlated with the sex of their first child.

In couples in which the husband was up to five years

**Husbands with younger wives are more likely to sire boys as their firstborn, writes Nigel Hawkes**

older than his wife, there were 117 firstborn sons and 84 daughters. When the age difference was between five and 15 years, there were 37 sons and 20 daughters.

When the wife was the older partner, the opposite effect was observed. Wives who were between one and nine years older than their husbands had 14 sons and 29 daughters. For the period between 1911 and 1952, there was a clear link between older husbands and the tendency to produce firstborn sons," he said.

"If rank and resources pass down the male line, then it is in the evolutionary interests of such people to produce male heirs. Poorer people, on the other hand, have no rank or wealth to pass down, and men from these classes tend to marry women their own age or older."

Their best interest may be served by producing daughters who can marry upwards and raise the family's status."

Boys first: Dudley Moore, left, and Bruce Forsyth

## Alarm rings for fish scientists

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SOME fish can detect very high-frequency sounds, scientists have found, in a discovery which casts doubt on the effectiveness of measures to stop dolphins from being caught in nets.

The fish may have the ability so that they can detect the ultrasonic echo-locating "clicks" of predators such as dolphins and porpoises, ward off marine mammals. But the discovery that prey of dolphins, such as herring, can also detect sounds up to 180kHz, may mean the "pingers" are worthless.

It appears that the "pingers" simply scare the fish away,

making it less likely that a hungry dolphin would go near the nets in the first place. The findings, from David Mahn, Zhongmin Lu and Arthur Popper, of the University of Maryland's zoology department, are published in *Nature*.

Mark Simmonds, of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said that the research showed the danger of putting faith in a simple technology to resolve a complex fisheries problem:



An aircraft silhouetted against the Moon, which was made from debris from the Earth's crust and mantle

## Moon grew in less than a year

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Moon was created in less than a year from a cloud of debris blasted from the Earth by a huge impact, according to Japanese and American astronomers.

They used computers to simulate the results of a variety of impacts by rogue "protoplanets" early in the Earth's history.

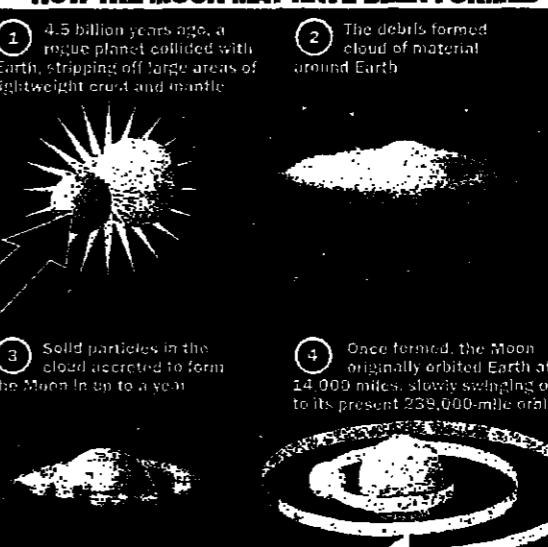
It has been accepted since 1984 that the likeliest origin of the Moon was the accretion of debris from the Earth. But the new simulations suggest two changes to the accepted theory. First, they show that the impacting object, hitherto believed to have been about the size of Mars, must have been at least three times larger to create the Moon.

Second, they show that lunar formation would have been very rapid.

Sigeru Ida, of Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Robin Canup and Glen Stewart, of Colorado University, report in *Nature* that the Moon formed within 100 to 1,000 orbits. As the orbital period was about ten hours, that means within a month to a year.

Not all the lightweight material stirred up by the impact of the rogue planet went into the Moon. Most of it fell back to Earth, but the rest formed an object that must have loomed enormous in the sky. It was about 14,000 miles from the Earth, nearly 20 times closer than today.

### HOW THE MOON MAY HAVE BEEN FORMED



Leading article, page 21

## Jet pilots mistrust latest fly-by-wire aircraft

By NICK NUTTALL

MANY airline pilots feel uncomfortable with the latest computer-controlled cockpits compared with traditional dials and controls found on older jets.

More than 60 per cent of those flying the most advanced planes, primarily those made by Airbus in Europe, said the technical manuals were "inadequate" compared with 23 per cent of those flying older jets.

The pilots of more advanced aircraft also complained of a lack of sensory stimulation because they no longer needed to keep their hands on the controls. More than half said they were not given adequate technical updates. Pilots of the advanced aircraft were twice as likely to consider their training inadequate.

The findings, reported in *New Scientist*, come from a survey by Cockpit, an association of German pilots. Most of the complaints were about the Airbus A320, A330 and A340 - the "fly-by-wire" computer-controlled aircraft.

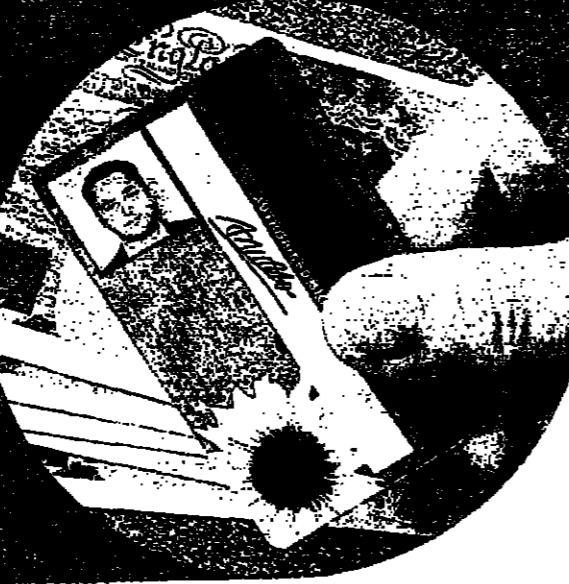
The survey was carried out before the Boeing 777, Airbus's competitor, came into service with German airlines. Ralf Beyer, of the German Government's Institute for Flight Guidance, said that pilots had responded more positively to the Boeing plane, which gave them more freedom to override computer systems.

John Mazor, of the Airline Pilots Association in Washington, said: "Airbus has a reputation for designing things with the attitude that the designers know better than the pilots." A spokesman for Airbus Industrie in Toulouse said pilots might initially mistrust the cockpits, but grew to trust the new technology.

Safety specialists have voiced concern over growing automation which gives pilots little to do during long flights. An American Airlines Boeing 757 crashed in Colombia in 1995 after the pilots, who were using autopilot, lost track of where they were. They programmed the jet to fly towards a position it had passed. It banked, trying to double back, and flew into a mountain.

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# Darling gives Lib Dems 'responsibility' warning

BY POLLY NEWTON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

A CABINET minister told the Liberal Democrats last night that they must be responsible about public spending if they wanted to work with the Labour Government.

Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government welcomed Paddy Ashdown's call yesterday for his party to be willing to compromise in achieving greater co-operation with Labour. "But if there is to be influence in power and influence in government, then that influence has to be exercised in a responsible manner, recognising the hard decisions that have to be made."

Last night Mr Darling told the Lib Dems that it was very much part of new Labour's approach to co-operate with other parties and with those who were not in politics. He said Labour had worked very successfully on the constitutional convention with the Liberal Democrats.

He predicted that such dialogue would continue for years to come between the two parties. "We will continue to



EASTBOURNE

work together where there is that common purpose. I very much agree with Paddy Ashdown said this afternoon when he said that no party has a monopoly on political wisdom. We can learn and should learn from each other without losing our individual identities."

Mr Darling said if somebody had told him ten years ago that he would be in the Cabinet and sharing a platform with Liberal Democrats he would have been amazed. "It is something of a sign of the changed politics in this country... I'm sure that in years to come that exchange will continue. If we ever reach a situation where parties which have much in common as well as their differences cannot speak to each other, I think democracy would be the loser."

Addressing Lib Dem criticism that the Government was not investing enough in education, Mr Darling emphasised that hard choices had to be made. He defended the Government for its decision to implement the Dearing report by imposing tuition fees on

students entering higher education. "We have got to face the fact that the present system was unsustainable."

He said that even the Liberal Democrats' policy of putting an extra penny on income tax to pay for investment in education would not be enough to solve the problem.

Sir Ian Wrigglesworth, chairman of the Liberal Democrat Business Forum, said he could think of no other occasion when a Cabinet minister had spoken at a rival party's conference. "There really could be no better example of the new politics of debate and discussion which Paddy Ashdown talked about earlier today." He described Mr Darling as being "like a lion in a den of Daniels".

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said: "I am sorry to see Alistair Darling responding so trenchantly to the Liberal Democrats' constructive opposition. I think that it shows our criticisms of Labour's plans for the NHS and education are hitting home in Downing Street and indeed right across the country."



THE former Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe made his first appearance at a party conference for almost 20 years yesterday (Polly Newton writes). Mr Thorpe (above), who has Parkinson's disease, was warmly applauded as he took his seat. He struggled to his feet and clasped his hands above his head to acknowledge the cheers. Later he clapped several times during Paddy Ashdown's speech and joined the standing ovation at the end. A party spokesman said that only ill health had prevented Mr Thorpe from appearing on the conference platform alongside Mr Ashdown. Mr Thorpe, 68, stood down as Liberal leader in 1976 after nine years. In 1979 he was ac-

## Thorpe given a warm welcome

quitted of conspiracy to murder and has made very few public appearances since. A spokesman for Mr Ashdown paid tribute to Mr Thorpe, describing his leadership as inspirational. "The party had a long, hard, climb back from the wilderness years in the 1940s and 1950s and the contribution of Jo Grimond, Jeremy Thorpe and David Steel to that climb-back, and to the position the party finds itself in now, has been immense."

## Ashdown is right and his activists know it

The Liberal Democrats do have a distinctive identity and their long-term future lies in co-operating with Labour. That strategy, forcefully reaffirmed by Paddy Ashdown yesterday, has stood up to the buffeting it has received in Eastbourne — which has anyway been mild by comparison with the tremors which hit the old Alliance over nuclear defence policy when the Liberals last visited the town in 1986.

Of course, the emergence of the Blairite new Labour Party has challenged the Lib Dems. There are dangers in the party positioning itself self-consciously to the left of the Government. That will not win votes in the South West. Mr Ashdown rightly gave warning that a "defence of decent public services" should not be confused with a fossilised defence of yesterday's state sector, and quality of service to consumers should not be undermined by "the special pleading of producers". The Lib Dems have at times appeared to be revelling in being the party of public spending and taxes.

Nonetheless, the question posed by Mr Ashdown: "Imagine British politics without the Liberal Democrats", is pertinent. This is not just a question of its separate electoral support and ideology, and more a matter of diversity. The two main parties often play safe, avoiding awkward questions. While the Lib Dems can be self-righteous about their candour, they have helped to challenge the official orthodoxy. Public debate would be

much narrower without them.

But as Mr Ashdown argued, the Lib Dems should not be satisfied with their local strength or being a conventional opposition. The political system is changing and this offers the Lib Dems a big opportunity. This is primarily because of Tony Blair's boldness. He has opened the door to a more pluralist approach, by, for example, setting up the consultative Cabinet committee. No one, and probably not Mr Blair himself, knows where this will lead — whether he wants new Labour to take over the whole centre ground with the Lib Dems as a subsidiary or whether he really believes in a multi-party system.

But Mr Ashdown is right that the Lib Dems have to take risks and cannot have "an excessive concern" for their own purity. No one at Eastbourne has seriously questioned Mr Ashdown's underlying approach. The worries expressed by Lib Dem MPs and activists have been more an assertion of independence and resentment at being patronised by Big Brother Labour. There has been a desire not to rush ahead too fast.

The politics of co-operation now faces tests both of style and substance. The two parties have to find ways of talking which do not annoy the other. Just as the Lib Dems resent being told they

## Leaders consider flexible PR line

BY JILL SHERMAN

THE Liberal Democrat leadership signalled yesterday that it would have to compromise over a proposed system of proportional representation for electing MPs.

The conference gave overwhelming backing to the purest form of PR, the single transferable vote (STV). The party will now recommend this to the commission on PR set up by Labour to choose a system to be put to voters in a referendum. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is the favourite to be chairman, though he will want to be sure of Mr Blair's commitment. The commission will include independent members like the Nolan committee. The key time will be in a year when it reports and Mr Blair has to decide whether to come off the fence. That will determine whether the parties become closer, or move apart. But, at present, the momentum for change is much greater than looked likely immediately after the general election.

PETER RIDDELL

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## Lib-Lab NHS group urged

By POLLY NEWTON

SIMON HUGHES called yesterday for the establishment of a cross-party convention to work on ways of improving the National Health Service.

Raising the prospect of further co-operation with Labour, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman said: "There is one coalition that the British people want politicians to sign up to now. A coalition to secure the future of the NHS."

Health professionals and patients' representatives would sit on the committee, but political parties should be allowed to join only if they committed themselves to spending enough on the Budget.

He called on the Government to commit £350 million immediately to start cutting waiting lists, recruiting new staff and improving pay and conditions. Labour should remember the promises it made before the election, he said.

"If you win an election on specific pledges to reduce waiting lists, and waiting lists go up, and people start asking when they will come down, you need to do better than say you really don't know."

Mr Hughes said that the Liberal Democrats would also be campaigning for a new independent inspectorate of health and social care. "If the

THE TIMES

# Yeltsin says state must play big role in market

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin said yesterday that 1998 would be the year of recovery for Russia's economy, adding that it was time for the Government to tackle the unfairness of free-wheeling capitalism by playing a bigger role in the market economy.

But while the President was confident that communism was dead and a turning-point had been reached for the economy, he gave a warning to parliament's upper house that the recovery would be achieved only with the co-operation of both parliament and regional authorities.

In an unprecedented speech to the Federation Council, he said: "A return to the old ways is already impossible. A free economy is already established in Russia... Even our opponents do not question the need for reforms."

Mr Yeltsin also spoke of the need for greater financial discipline and moves to close loopholes for "behind-the-scenes redistribution of taxpayers' money". Federal accounts would be transferred away from banks into the Treasury to reduce the opportunities for embezzlement.

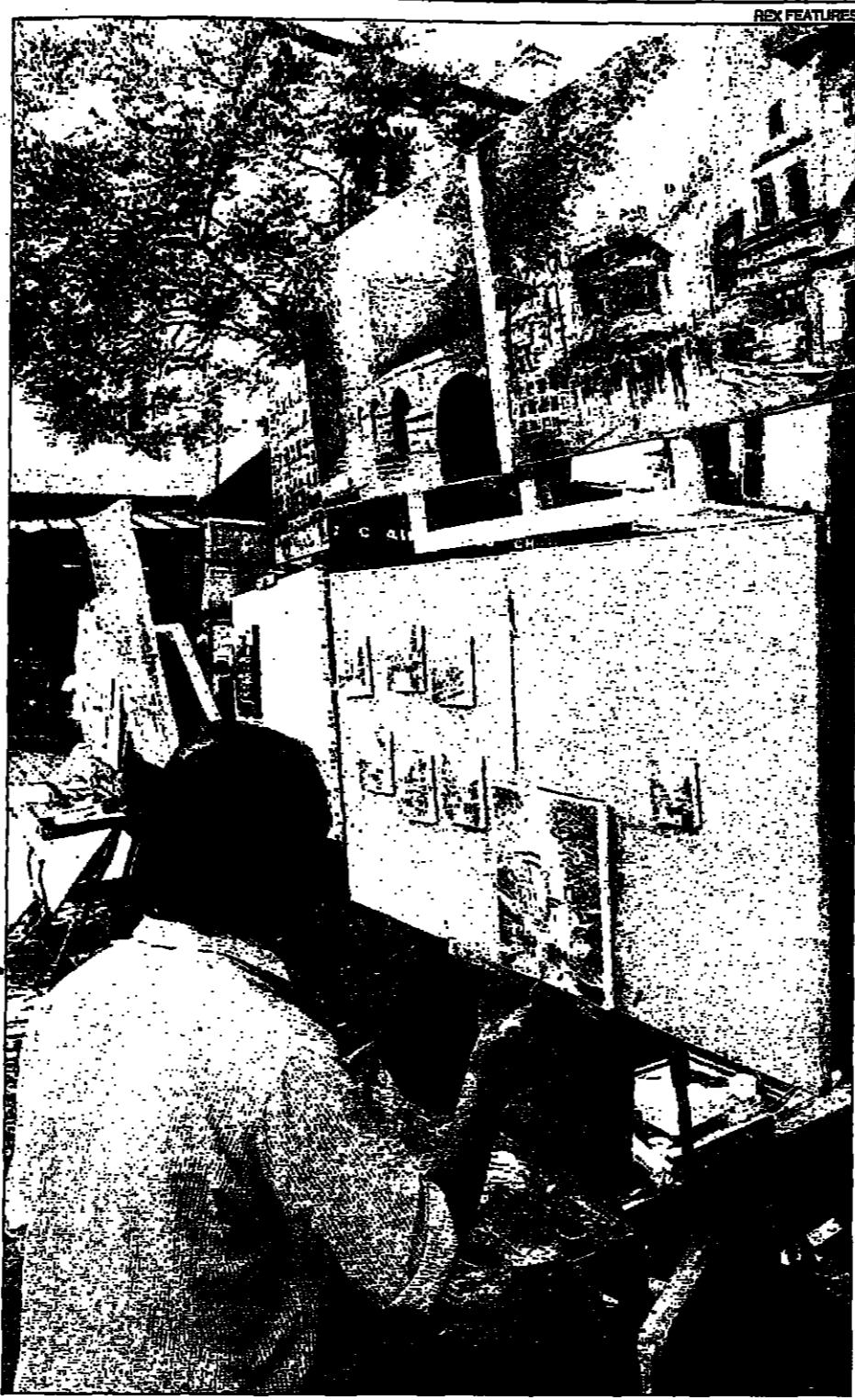
Efforts by the administration to stabilise the economy have already stimulated foreign investment in Russia. Anatoli Chubais, the First Deputy Prime Minister, told a delegation of prominent British business last week that foreign investment had trebled to \$6 billion (£3.6 billion) so far this year from \$2 billion for all of 1996.

Earlier this week Al Gore, the American Vice-President, speaking in Moscow after talks with Mr Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, predicted a surge in foreign investment. He, too, emphasised the importance of tax reform and success in the fight against corruption and crime to help bring about this shift.

Official figures show GDP rose for the sixth successive month last month to stand 0.7 per cent higher than a year ago. However, those living below the £44-a-month minimum subsistence level rose to 30.9 million, nearly 21 per cent of the population.

Religion law: The Russian parliament's upper house passed unanimously yesterday a controversial draft law on religions. Although revised, the West still criticises the legislation as discriminatory. (AP)

**Yeltsin after speaking in Moscow yesterday**



One of the many artists who ply their trade on Montmartre hill in Paris

## Bus ban threatens artists with blue period

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

PAINTERS on the hill of Montmartre, once the artistic hub of Paris, claim they will be put out of business by a new municipal regulation banning tourist buses from the area.

After complaints that the narrow streets of Montmartre have become clogged by traffic, the city authorities ruled this week that buses must now park at the bottom of the hill. The artists argue that tourists will simply avoid the area rather than tackle the steep climb to the top.

Montmartre hill, the highest point in the city, can be reached by a funicular railway, but most tourists get there in coach parties. Once the haunt of such painters as Picasso, Matisse and Modigliani, Montmartre remains a magnet for struggling street artists, who make money by painting portraits or caricatures of some of the six million visitors every year to the hilltop cafés and restaurants.

Georges Beharikis, president of the Montmartre Artists' Collective, said: "Without coaches, old people simple won't be able to make it up the hill."

The Association of Montmartre Shopkeepers said in a statement yesterday: "This measure will [have] repercussions on employment, since many places will have to close down completely."

Jean Tiberi, the Paris Mayor, defended the move by saying that "Montmartre will recover its tranquillity".

## Italy gives single currency a test run in Florence

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY is so confident of qualifying for the European single currency next year that selected citizens will be given the chance to handle and use the euro from next month.

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Budget and Treasury Minister, told the World Bank and the IMF this week that although the Prodi Government was regarded as "bold, even reckless" for launching an austerity budget to help Italy meet the Maastricht criteria, its efforts had been rewarded by low inflation and a budget deficit increasingly close to the 3 per cent of GDP required by Maastricht.

Signor Pesci said people in Fiesole and Pontassieve would be able to "buy bread and salami, go to the cinema and take a bus ride" from October until March 1998 using the euro. The Florentine coins and notes resemble those approved by Brussels but bear local symbols and civic crests.

Two areas have been chosen because they offer different social and economic laboratories for the experiment: Fiesole is a leafy district of well-to-do villas much favoured by art lovers and tourists looking for the ambience of E.M. Forster's *A Room with a View*, while Pontassieve is an industrial area bordering the Tuscan wine country.

"We want to see how shopkeepers and bus drivers as well as their customers react to making transactions in the euro," Signor Pesci said. Similar experiments in France and Germany have not been received with enthusiasm. But although the lira is seen as weak compared with the franc or the mark, Italy is desperate to join the single currency from the outset.

A decision on which states can join the single currency in



Prodi: party leading way on use of euro

## Plea for Rwanda aid block

Nairobi: America and South Africa should reconsider aid to Rwanda's Tutsi-led army because it has been involved in the deaths of some 6,000 people since January. Amnesty International claimed yesterday.

Most of the victims were unarmed civilians who died at the hands of the Rwandan Patriotic Army or Hutu rebels, the London-based human rights watchdog said. Amnesty said it based the figure of 6,000 deaths on reports from survivors, witnesses and the families of victims, some of whom are in exile. The US gives military assistance to Rwanda. South Africa has been the country's main weapons supplier. (AP)

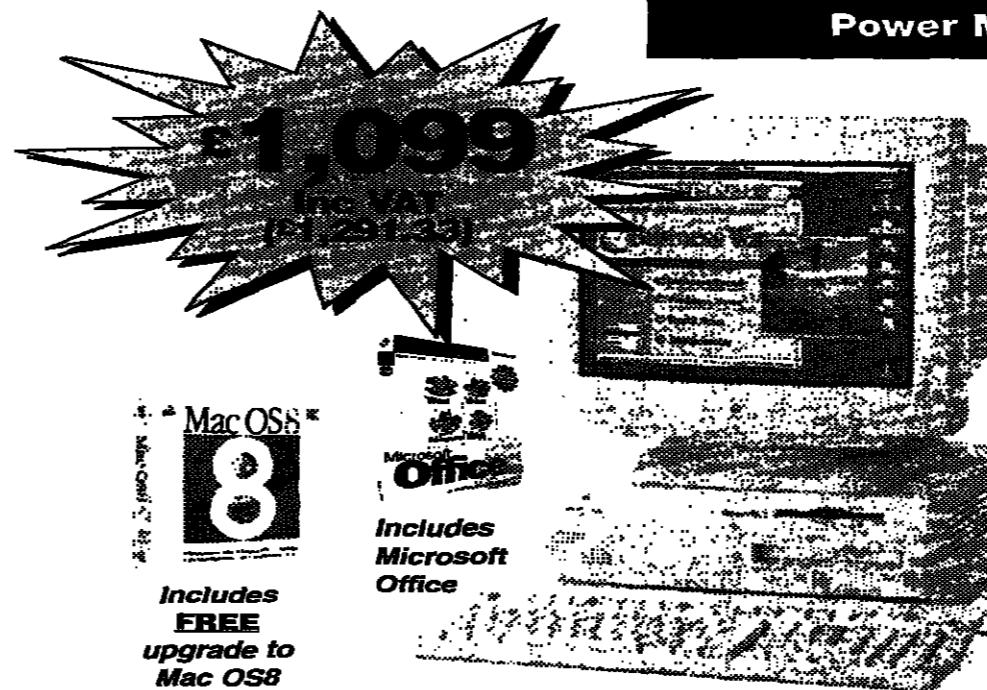
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# Envoy start evacuation of smog-hit Malaysia capital

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITISH diplomatic families may be evacuated if the haze blanketing Malaysia and much of South-East Asia gets worse. The American and Canadian embassies in Kuala Lumpur yesterday announced partial evacuations.

The Foreign Office has already warned British visitors with heart and respiratory problems of the dangers posed by the thick smog caused by uncontrolled forest fires in Indonesia. An advisory notice urges anyone with breathing difficulties to stay indoors or limit their time outside. The same advice has been given to British diplomats.

The smog — covering an area almost the size of Western Europe — is now posing a serious threat to health and aviation. It has claimed its first two lives with the death of two people in Indonesia.

In Kuching, capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak

on Borneo, the air pollution index stood at 651, well above the hazard level of between 300 and 500. Officials said exposure to pollution at an index of 200-300 was equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes.

Two Malaysian naval ships arrived at the Philippines. Fishermen south of Manila have been unable to put to sea because it is too dark.

The World Health Organis-

ation and the United Nations Environment Programme have given warnings that long-term exposure to the pollution could cause lung cancer.

American diplomats were yesterday preparing to send their families out of Malaysia on a voluntary basis, and Canada announced that staff would have a week's leave in Australia on a rotating basis

to give them a break from the pollution. "We don't know what the long-term effects of this are," an American diplomat said. "Nothing like this has ever happened before."

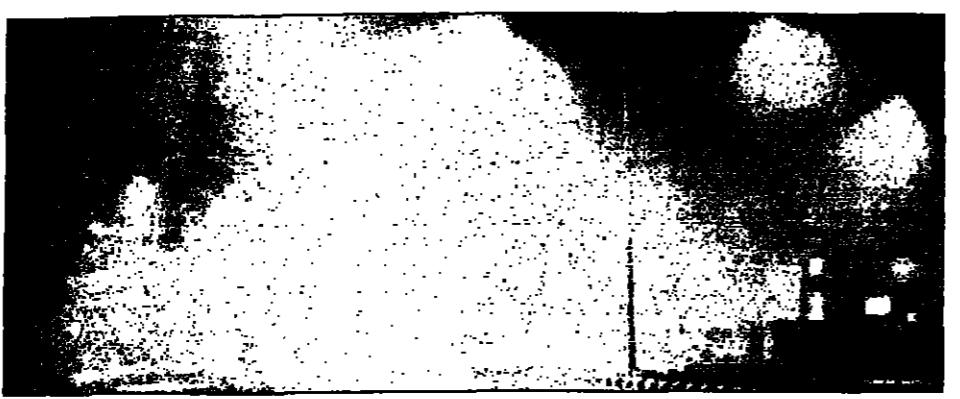
Officials said 15,000 Malaysians, mostly children and the elderly, had been treated for haze-related illnesses.

The crisis has provoked sharp criticism in Malaysia of the Government, which environmentalists say has not done enough. They have called for a ban on all cars and vehicles, a halt to the burning of rubbish and a week's closure of factories.

"To expect nature to take care of this problem is foolhardy, as we have been exploiting and destroying nature," said Chua Tian Chang, spokesman of the Campaign for a Clean Environment group.

The Malaysian Government has begun distributing surgical masks, but an environmental expert said a wet towel was probably more effective.

Kuching in the Malaysian state of Sarawak is shrouded by fire pollution at night



A Malaysian child wearing sunglasses and surgical mask for protection against the worsening air pollution levels in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday

## 'Even the mild haze is like inhaling hot cotton wool'

By ROSEMARY RIGGTER

THE haze over South-East Asia has almost nothing, except poor visibility, in common with the wintry fogs experienced in Britain. To experience it, even in the relatively mild form that has afflicted Singapore, is unbelievably unpleasant, akin to inhaling hot cotton wool fibres.

A naturally humid climate, where daytime temperatures hover in the mid-30s, adds to the enervating effect of living inside a wet blanket redolent of the refuse tip. Surgical face masks make no real difference. Eyes sting, with or without sunglasses — and sunglasses are hardly appropriate in the thick muck.

Even for the fit, the haze pollution index needs to reach no higher than the 100-range

suffered by Singaporeans to make even walking exhausting, and to pose risks for the very young and those with respiratory problems or weak hearts. The haze is officially classed as hazardous at between 300 and 500, the top of the scale; and in parts of Malaysia and Indonesia the upper end of the scale has now been breached.

As the flight from London approached Singapore last week, the pilot announced that visibility was adequate for landing. The unexplained announcement seemed odd at the time for mid-afternoon in the dry season. Stepping from the airport into the semi-darkness, my first reaction was to think that I must have set my watch wrongly; it was clearly much later than I had

thought. But for the rest of the week, the sun was never to appear. Even in an air-conditioned hotel foyer, you could see the air drifting through doors that were left open for more than a moment. Nearby skyscrapers simply vanished, vehicles used lights and shipping had to be curtailed on the Strait of Malacca.

In Singapore criticism of neighbouring Asian countries is discouraged. But Indonesia's failure, year after year, to control the forest fires is breaking down the customary restraints. With Indonesia gripped by drought, these fires could not only be the worst ever but also the most durable. Foreigners can be evacuated, but South-East Asians are in for a suffocating season.

### WORLD SUMMARY

#### Man who shot at Queen dies

Wellington: A New Zealander notorious as a schoolboy for a shooting incident involving the Queen in 1981 has electrocuted himself in a jail cell.

Christopher Lewis, 33, accused of murdering a housewife and kidnapping, electrocuted himself by placing wires from a television set on his temples. When 17, he fired a shot at the Queen in Dunedin and was jailed for three years for recklessly discharging a firearm. (Reuters)

#### Royal reversal

Cambodia: Australia's republican movement has won the backing of Sir Zelman Cowen, the Queen's official representative in the country when he served as Governor-General from 1977-82. (Reuters)

#### Private war ends

Camp Pendleton: A Marine absent without leave since the Vietnam War admitted desertion and received a bad conduct discharge in California. Randall J. Caudill, 48, fled to Canada in 1968. (AP)

#### Hanoi's choice

Hanoi: Vietnam's National Assembly approved Tran Duc Luong, 60, a Communist Party technocrat, as President, a first step towards ending months of uncertainty about the leadership. (Reuters)

#### Bone breakers

The Hague: Workers created a 188-piece jigsaw puzzle when they dropped a *Hypacrosaurus* skeleton. It had taken two years to glue together the 75 million-year-old, duck-billed dinosaur's bones. (AP)

criminal remnants of the perverse GIA extremists".

The military-backed Government has denied negotiating with the militants, but yesterday's communiqué confirmed that contacts "for the return of security and stability ... have been going on for a long time".

The AIS statement, signed by its "emir", Madani Mezerag, said: "This détente prompted the enemies of the past and future to fan the flames of discord and among the sons of Algeria and foil any plan that could buoy up the country and motivate the people."

The extensive coverage given to the proposed ceasefire by Algerian state radio and television yesterday was a clear indication of official backing.

The latest atrocities took place in Bentoumi-Bentelha on the outskirts of Algiers, once an FIS stronghold, indicating that the five-year battle to overthrow the Government is developing into a bloody feud between wings of the insurgency movement.

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# China attacks new US-Japan defence pact

**Tokyo told not to interfere over 'issue of Taiwan'**

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

CHINA reacted strongly yesterday to an expansion in American-Japanese military co-operation, announced in New York on Tuesday, giving a warning that interference over Taiwan would be "completely unacceptable".

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing added: "Any act which includes directly or indirectly the Taiwan Strait in the framework of US-Japan defence co-operation is an interference in and violation against China's sovereignty." He added: "This would be completely unacceptable to the Chinese Government and the Chinese people."

Chinese officials are angry at what they see as an implied warning to Beijing not to touch Taiwan, and at Japan's engagement in American

strategy to limit Chinese influence.

Elsewhere in the region, Taipei, the Taiwanese capital, applauded the expanded alliance as a positive step towards stability. South Korea gave a guardedly neutral response, urging Washington and Tokyo to consult closely with Seoul on the guidelines.

In Manila, President Ramos of the Philippines said: "If they have come to an agreement that would give Japan a greater opportunity to be engaged in the security and stability of our common region, I welcome this."

The deal gives Japan a broader, mainly logistic, military role in any American engagement in the region. It also includes controversial tasks such as reconnaissance, intelligence-gathering, mine-sweeping to keep international sea lanes open and enforcing naval blockades.

This expands the role of Japan's Self-Defence Forces, so far purely defensive except for non-combat United Nations peacekeeping operations. Until now, Tokyo has been obliged only to provide land for US bases.

The guidelines do not say so, but they were clearly drawn up with the Korean peninsula in mind and the potential for conflict in the Taiwan Strait. Japan and America have been at pains to



Japanese Buddhist monks demonstrate outside the US Embassy in Tokyo against the accord, which challenges Japan's pacifist Constitution

state that no third country is targeted and that their policy towards China — especially over Taiwan — remains unchanged.

Diplomats had expected the Chinese response to be muted, partly because Beijing would not want to sour the mood before a visit to Washington next month by President Jiang Zemin, Japan's Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto,

moved to head off a diplomatic row, saying: "We have to alleviate their [China's] concerns through talks at various levels, not only at the top level." He announced plans to send officials, including defence staff, to Beijing to "explain" the guidelines.

In Japan, opposition parties bitterly denounced the arrangements, which do not need parliamentary approval

and challenge the country's pacifist Constitution. The centre-right Minshuto (Democratic Party of Japan) called it "a mechanism to make Japan participate in a war automatically at the request of the United States". Japan's Communist Party said the scheme would involve the nation in any American war in Asia, even when Japan itself was not directly threatened, and vio-

late the 1947 pacifist Constitution which bars Japan from using military force to settle any international dispute.

Crucially, the accord fudges the issue of how far afield Japanese troops can venture in support of American forces in a crisis. Instead the guidelines say "the concept — situations in areas surrounding Japan — is not geographic but situational". This ambiguity

was intended to avoid provoking China, but analysts said no one doubts the real meaning — that Japan could be called upon to help America to protect Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack. In fact, Japan's top government spokesman let the cat out of the bag last month by revealing that the arrangements would cover possible conflicts in the Taiwan Strait.

THE death at 80 in Taiwan on Monday of Chiang Wei-kuo, adopted son of the late President Chiang Kai-shek, removes from the scene one of the last outspoken admirers of the man he called "Mr Hitler".

A bellicose man and a graduate of Whampoa, his father's elite military academy, Chiang was a tank general when the Kuomintang Government retreated to Taiwan in 1949. He liked to recall that as a young colonel he had almost defeated a larger Communist tank force during one of the last great mainland battles, at Xuzhou in 1948, but lost because his commander died.

General Chiang played little part in serious politics in Taiwan and retired from the army in the 1980s. It was accepted in Taiwan that the general's brother, Chiang Jing-guo, who was President until his death in 1988, had been the son of one of Chiang Kai-shek's mistresses, and that in fact the famous Madame Chiang Kai-shek — who lives in America — had been biological mother to neither of her husband's famous sons.

In 1985, during an interview in Taipei, General Chiang spoke proudly of his training in the German Army in the mid-1930s. He remembered "Mr Hitler" fondly. "He was a very nice man, always very kind to me." Asked about the Holocaust, General Chiang said: "I never believe anything I have not seen, especially bad things I hear about people."



General Chiang: hailed Hitler as a nice man

## Indian police stop widow from joining husband on funeral pyre

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
IN DELHI

POLICE pulled a hysterical young woman from the flames of her husband's funeral pyre in Rajasthan this week, the first known case of attempted suttee (widow burning) in a decade. Among the men and women of the Rajput warrior caste, it would have been an honourable death.

The incident occurred in a village

25 miles from Jaipur, an area of conservative, private communities where suttee has probably been secretly performed a number of times in the past decade. Raj Kanwar, in her late twenties, had planned her death within hours of that of her husband, Shrawan Singh, 32, after a long illness.

For three days she did not sleep, eat or take water. Among other high-caste women of her village she was performing the ultimate, an-

cient gesture of love. To the police, however, she was committing a crime. They heard of her plans shortly before the cremation and rushed to the site. She was dragged, screaming, into custody as fire engulfed her husband's body.

The last known case of suttee was in 1987, when sword-wielding Rajput youths surrounded a widow, Roop Kanwar, as she walked to her husband's cremation ground and jumped on his pyre in Deorala,

Rajasthan. There were reports that she was goaded into her sacrifice by fellow Rajputs. Other reports said she was physically forced into the flames. Some accounts described her as smiling and serene; others said she was screaming and frothing at the mouth. Nobody was ever prosecuted.

Her father, Bal Singh Rathor,

who did not attend, said a year later that she had decided to commit suttee despite attempts by relatives

to dissuade her. A shrine was erected in her honour, and people offered prayers in front of her photograph. Police threatened to take it down, but it was left alone for fear of upsetting the politically powerful Rajputs.

Suttee was banned by the British more than 160 years ago but it continued in parts of the country, principally Rajasthan. There are stiff penalties for attempting or planning to commit suttee, but the

police are unlikely to take action against Raj Kanwar, who has been sedated and is now in the care of relatives.

The Indian Government enacted legislation in 1987 banning any glorification of suttee and forbidding the erection of temples in honour of women who become suicides. Rajput leaders say there have been about two dozen cases of suttee in the past 50 years, none of which has come to public notice.

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# ANC fears to grasp Mrs Mandela nettle

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE appearance of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hardly likely to be the last heard of the multiple killings carried out by her infamous "football club". Her wayward personality and the fact that the commission is more a theatre than a court guarantee that. But the fallout from this latest drama seems likely to be more immediate and far-reaching.

Mrs Mandela is an albatross round her party's neck and the resurfacing of the many scandals surrounding her is deeply unwelcome to the ANC shortly before a conference which will see President Mandela hand over party leadership to Thabo Mbeki.

The party's response has been to go into denial mode, but since it tends to do this quite instinctively in the face of any embarrassment its credibility is at risk.

Mrs Mandela's candidacy for the ANC deputy presidency has raised the stakes enormously, particularly since the holder is certain to become South Africa's Deputy President.

The preferred ANC way of choosing officials is to have one nomination for each post selected by a cabal. But now that Mrs Mandela's hat is in the ring, so are at least three others and the party faces a battle in which she is seen by many as the front runner. The prospect that she could run well, or even win, is enough to panic the party managers, not just because of the disastrous effect this would have on important sections of domestic and international opinion, but because her track record suggests that a lot more trouble would follow.

Moreover, the peace talks in KwaZulu-Natal are becalmed and there is a desperate need for the ANC and Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party to make a deal before the onset of the electoral hurly-burly sees the situation slip back into the violent competition which has already cost 14,000 lives. Mrs Mandela's presence in the ring will make such a deal harder; anyone who truckles to Chief Buthelezi is all too easily labelled a sell-out. Her law-

yers have been playing for time, trying to put the commission hearing back as far as possible so that it is pushed hard up against the ANC conference in December.

If that were to happen, it will become impossible to separate the two events. One important point is that the hearing is going ahead as early as it is — and in camera to prevent Mrs Mandela from grandstanding too publicly. But there will be nothing to stop her from repeating in public whatever she says if she feels the need.

The chances of the ANC grasping the Winnie nettle look poor. Cyril Ramaphosa tried to do that and he has had to abandon political life entirely. Yet no one doubts that it would be far easier to deal with the problem once and for all while Mr Mandela, with his great moral authority, is at the helm. Once he is gone and she is the only bearer of the Mandela name in the political ring, it could become virtually impossible.



President Mandela speaking yesterday, National Heritage Day, at Robben Island where he was imprisoned. The background mural shows him and other black leaders in South Africa. Steve Biko and Robert Sobukwe

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# WILL IAN DURY WANT TO HIT US WITH HIS RHYTHM STICK?

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## Woman blames beating-up on sexual jealousy

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

NEATLY folded and tucked into a part of a closet where it cannot contaminate the rest of her clothes, Phumzile Dlamini keeps a maternity dress stained with blood from injuries she says were caused by Winnie Mandela in a rage of sexual jealousy.

Three months pregnant by Mrs Mandela's driver, Shakes Tao, Mrs Dlamini says she was kidnapped by the South African President's former wife who, she alleges, smashed fists into her face and tore at her hair before handing her on to the notorious Mandela United Football Club. "See what you can do with her," Mrs Mandela allegedly told her teenage thug.

Shaking with fear and sobbing, Mrs Dlamini recalled the night which she blames for the brain damage suffered by her son while he was in the womb eight years ago, with chilling clarity.

Mrs Mandela is due to face accusations of 18 counts of gross human rights abuses, including eight murders, at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Friday. Her lawyers said this week that they would ask for a postponement to "complete interviews with witnesses". That is why Miss Dlamini was shaking in terror. Mrs Mandela's palatial house in Soweto's Orlando West still casts a shadow of fear across the tiny bungalows of the township she terrorised during the 1980s.

"Yesterday I was warned by a friend that anyone who is expected to testify against Winnie will be killed. I want to tell the commission what happened to me, but I am afraid. I need protection."

Mrs Dlamini said Mrs Mandela was convicted of kidnapping and assault at a murder trial for Stompe Seipe in 1991 and sentenced to six years, which was later commuted to a fine.

Shocking new evidence in the Stompe case is expected to come out when one of Mrs Mandela's former henchmen, Katiza Cebekulu, testifies to the commission. In sworn affidavits he has already said that he twice saw Mrs Mandela plunge a sharp object into the 14-year-old activist whose corpse was found dumped in waste ground. Jerry Richardson, the football team's coach, was convicted of the 1987 murder, and is serving a life term. He has said in his application for

amnesty to the commission that he was acting on Mrs Mandela's orders. Mrs Dlamini's story reveals frightening details about the woman who announced she would run for deputy president of the ANC. At 19, when she allegedly fell foul of Mrs Mandela, Mrs Dlamini had never been in trouble. Then she fell in love with Shakes, and became pregnant. Unfortunately, she says, she did not realise that Mrs Mandela's legendary sexual appetite had included Shakes.

"She came to my house and asked if I was in love with Shakes. I said no. She said I was making a fool of her and started beating me. "She left me, but came back later that day, in the evening. She was screaming, swearing at me, her eyes were huge and she seemed to be having a sort of fit. She forced me back into her car and that's when she started really beating me up," Mrs Dlamini said.

"Yesterday I was warned by a friend that anyone who is expected to testify against Winnie will be killed. I want to tell the commission what happened to me, but I am afraid. I need protection."

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**"Will things  
have changed  
by the time  
I turn the page?"**

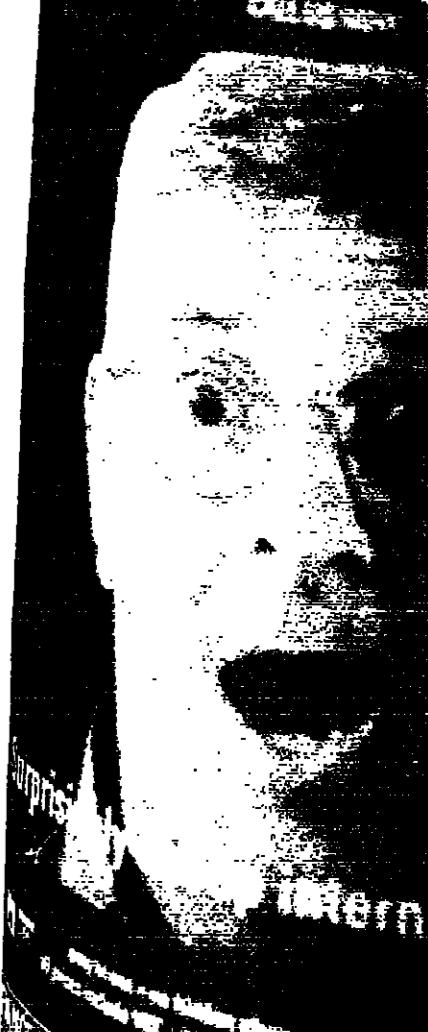
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# Clinton aide says US must extend stay in Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's National Security Adviser, setting the stage for a protracted political battle with Congress, has signalled that America must be ready to keep troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina well beyond the scheduled withdrawal of Nato forces in June.

Samuel Berger, in a clear effort to prepare America for the apparently inevitable continuation of an American military presence, said the West must remain engaged in Bosnia to preserve peace in the Balkans and the credibility of the Nato alliance.

"Peace is beginning to take root," he said, "but the gains are not irreversible, and locking them in will require that the international community stay engaged in Bosnia in some fashion for a good while to come."

Mr Berger, in a speech at Georgetown University, made no explicit commitment that Americans would remain in the Balkans beyond the June deadline, but officials at the White House portrayed his words as a deliberate signal of intent to both opponents on Capitol Hill and anxious allies in Whitehall, Paris and Bonn.

The Foreign Office and officials from other allied governments have for some time been urging the White House

to clarify its position over Bosnia. Britain and other European countries have long maintained that their troops will not remain in the Balkans without a continued American military presence. Last night Hubert Verdrine, the French Foreign Minister, said in New York that the Nato-led peacekeeping force should prepare for a longer stay to finish the job undertaken in the Dayton peace accords.

The Berger announcement came after much debate over the issue among the various government departments in Washington. Even the Pentagon has been forced to recognise that withdrawal before June would almost certainly lead to renewed conflict in the region.

The speech was also timed to blunt increasing criticism of the Administration's foreign policy by Republicans in Congress and notable outsiders, including Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State.

In an article widely published in American newspapers this week, Dr Kissinger offered a scathing assessment of Mr Clinton's Bosnia policy, suggesting that Washington risked drifting into a crisis because America's goals and strategy in the region were poorly defined.

## Irish rock band unites Bosnians

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

BONO, lead singer with the rock band U2, departed Sarajevo cloaked in the mantle of peacemaker yesterday, after a concert that crossed Bosnia's ethnic divide and left diplomats singing his praises.

Before climbing into a private jet bound for Greece and the next leg of the band's tour, the Irishman said he hoped the Sarajevo concert, which brought 50,000 fans from all over the former Yugoslavia, was a "small step" on the road to uniting Bosnia.

"There were 1,000 people from Republika Srpska there and they didn't have Kalashnikovs but U2 tickets in their hands," said the singer, wearing wrap-around pink-tinted sunglasses and a leather baseball cap. "It was an extraordinary night."

After hugging locals, Bono was whisked away. He was followed shortly afterwards by his guitarist, The Edge, who described the band's

meeting with President Izetbegovic as "fantastic. He was a real gentleman".

Duncan Bullivant, spokesman for the Office of the High Representative, said U2 had shown that the boundary separating Muslims and Croats from Republika Srpska was there to be breached. "It was a good example that there is hope for this country," he said.

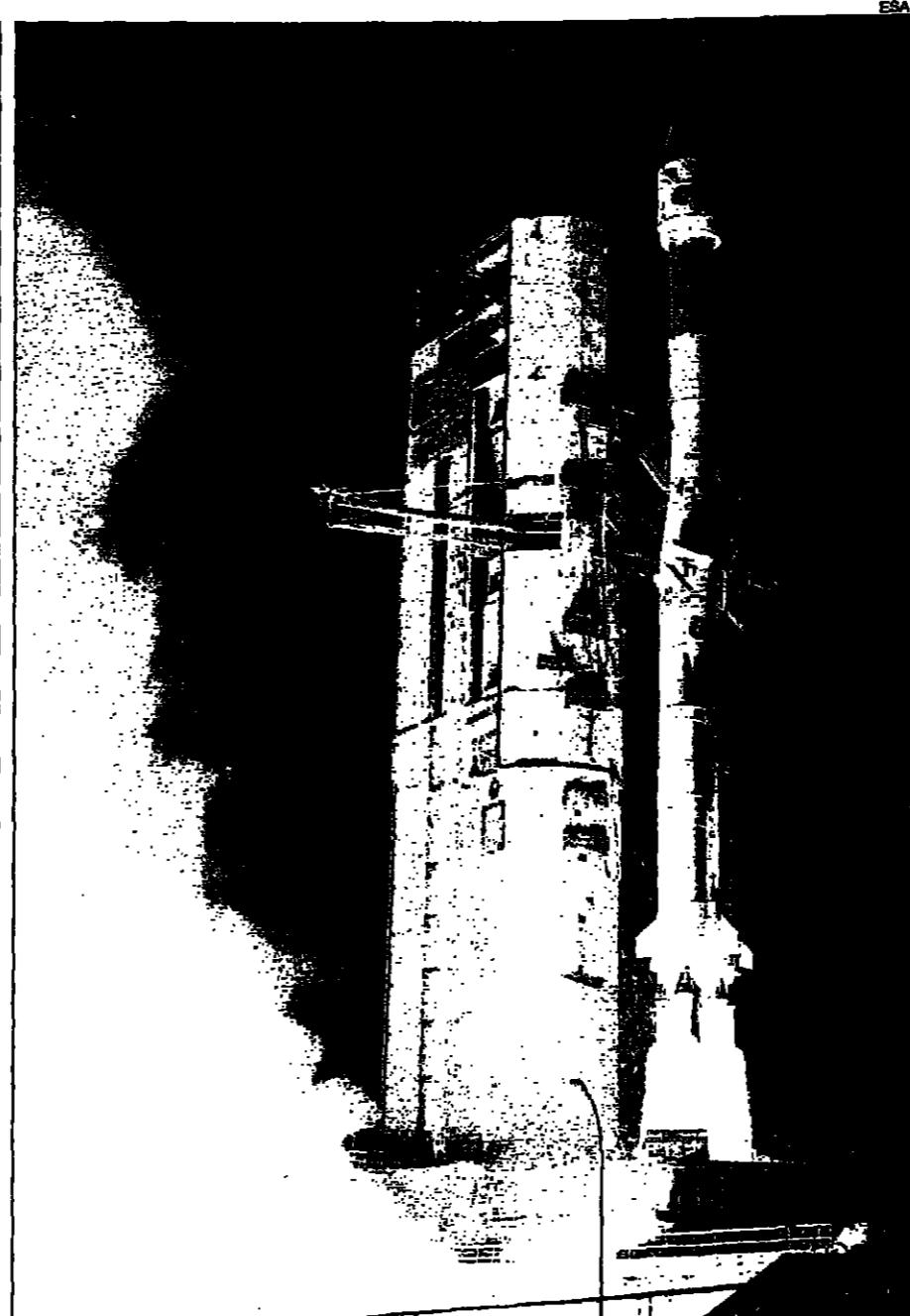
Alex Ivankov, the United Nations spokesman, said U2 had exposed the "absolute banality" of the nationalist rhetoric dividing Bosnia. "People can have a good time no matter what nationality they are."

However, U2 fans in Pale, which is just 20 minutes up the road from Sarajevo and is the stronghold of Radovan Karadzic, the hardline Bosnian Serb leader, were prevented from buying tickets by their leadership, who told them the journey was unsafe.

Bono, in a statement, said: "I am very honoured to be here. I am here to help bring peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina."



Berger: feels peace is beginning to take root



The 100th European Ariane rocket, carrying a telecommunications satellite, lifts off from French Guiana on Tuesday night almost 18 years after the first Ariane launch

## Elton John tribute breaks US records

BY TOM RHODES

ELTON JOHN'S tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, has broken all records in the United States, where shops throughout the country said the song had sold out within hours of its release.

The Recording Industry Association of America yesterday certified that *Candle in the Wind 1997* had achieved "eight times platinum", a record eight-million initial shipment for a single.

When it was released in Britain last week, the song sold 650,000 copies in one day, to become the fastest-selling single of all time.

In America, its arrival appeared to bring something of a end to the extraordinary period of mourning that drew many to a princess they rarely followed in life.

At Tower Records in Washington, devotees grabbed multiple copies. "I've been here five years, and this is the first time I've seen so many people buying multiple copies of a record, especially a single," said Tommi Baker, an assistant manager. Most customers said they were buying it because the proceeds were being given to the Princess's charities.

The marketing of the Princess has gathered momentum. Mail order advertisements have appeared in almost all American papers, offering commemorative objects.

Photograph, page 24

## Treasury scraps smudged \$50 bills

Washington: The US Treasury has been forced to delay the debut of its state-of-the-art \$50 bill after printing \$7.8 billion (£4.8 billion) of such poor quality that the notes appeared counterfeited (Tom Rhodes writes).

Smudging of Ulysses Grant's portrait and of micro-printed security details in his collar left the work below the standards demanded by the Federal Reserve for a first-run.

Reprinting the poor notes, which officials at the Federal Reserve admitted could be mistaken for fakes, may cost as much as \$1 million.

The smudged bills made up more than 15 per cent of an order for nearly one billion \$50 notes which were due to go into circulation between now and early 1998.

The problem was not detected until the Bureau of Engraving and Printing had dispatched large shipments of the money from Washington, and attempted to make the Reserve accept the defective currency regardless.

As a result circulation has been postponed until the middle of next month at the earliest.

"We have said we expect to get new notes to the Fed by the fall of this year and we will meet that deliverable date," said Larry Felix, a spokesman who conceded that the bureau had not encountered difficulties with smudging in the past.

"We've decided that notes of the absolute highest quality will be the first to go out."

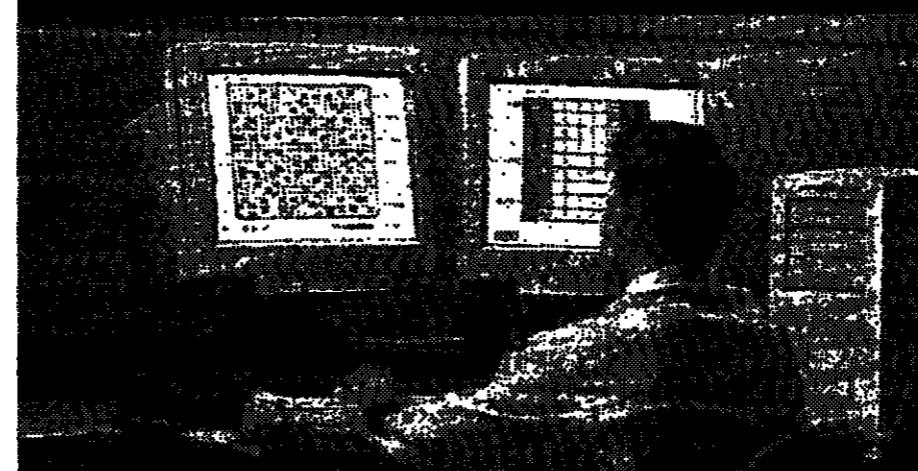
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# A single-minded drive to the limit

**Richard Noble is the fastest man on earth; he is also masterminding the project to break his own land speed record. Anjana Ahuja reports**

**I**t is 11pm and everyone in the packed Black Rock Saloon Bar in Gerlach, a tiny town on the edge of the vast Black Rock desert in Nevada, has been feasting on roast pig and beer for three hours. It is time for the highlight of the evening.

A tall young man takes the stage, fiddling nervously with the microphone. A hush descends; cameras are poised. Fortified by several drinks, the young man delivers an inspired impression of Richard Noble OBE, still the fastest man on Earth. The serious, deep tones, and the impatient, military manner, and the oddly timed smiles, are perfectly mimicked.

It is an audacious send-up, made even more so by the fact that the man himself is, unexpectedly, in the crowd, laughing sportingly at his imitator.

That night in the Black Rock Saloon was a rare moment of light relief in a deadly serious project — to break the sound barrier on land. Despite the lack of major corporate support (Castrol is an honorable exception), Noble, holder for the past 14 years of the world land speed record, of 633.5 mph, has managed to motivate a team of about 30 people to dedicate every spare minute of their lives to building a car that will carry one man through 750mph. The past month has been the culmination of Noble's dream — to finally usher that team out to the Black Rock desert, regarded as the best place in the world to run.

In a canny publicity stunt, Noble also persuaded his longstanding American rival, Craig Breedlove, the first man through 400, 500 and 600mph, to venture on to the desert at the same time for what quickly became known as the "duel in the desert". Now, six years after the two men first met, Noble is nearly there — his car, the *Thrust SSC* (Supersonic Car) is on the verge of living up to its name, having clocked up an unofficial 719mph already.

Noble's single-minded determination has left his American rival — who has managed only 391mph in his vehicle, *Spirit of America* — unenvied and earned him unequivocal respect and admiration. And even though he is not at the wheel (*Thrust* is driven by Squadron Leader Andy Green, 35, an unmarried RAF fighter pilot), for many people it is Noble who will return to Britain a hero. His achievement is remarkable — on a shoestring budget, he has transported a team nearly 6,000 miles to spend six weeks in a remote frontier town, and persuaded many individuals

to work up to 16 hours a day for little or no money.

For all this, Noble claims to be unmoved by seeing *Thrust* glide powerfully through the desert. "I don't talk about emotions," he said brusquely last week, after the car had reached 550mph in a quite thrilling display. "Emotions are dangerous."

Noble was born 51 years ago into what he calls a "boring military family". His father, an army colonel, was decorated but the young Noble, educated at Winchester, was never captivated by military life. "After the war it wasn't interesting enough," he says, his huge figure dominating the tiny bungalow he has rented in Gerlach. It serves as *Thrust* HQ, as well as being a

temporary home for him, his wife Sally, 47, and their children, Miranda, 18, Genevieve, 16, and Jack, 8. Andrew, one of Noble's two brothers, wanders in and out.

Noble did not contemplate university, "preferring to get on with life", and became a salesman, first for Dulux paints and then Crimplene for ICI. In 1971 he abandoned his career to mount an overland expedition to Africa. On his return to Britain, he switched to promoting management courses devised by the American Management Association. It was an exercise Noble pursued with passion, and he will still explain to anyone who will listen the merits of a flat pyramid of power versus a tall pyramid, "which has some chaps at the top who doesn't know what's going on". He adds that the military models itself on a tall pyramid and barracks me for describing his impressive operation as one of "military precision".

From 1974 he decided to devote himself to his "obsession" with becoming the fastest man on Earth. It had preoccupied him since childhood; during a posting to Inverness, Noble spotted John

like to see people sacked for their decisions. "It's a harsh world," he says, without a flicker of sympathy for those decision-makers who may not have wanted their name associated with a fatality. "You have to understand, we are a very tough little project. People can live or die by the decisions we make." In the end, the Mach 1 club, a supporters' organisation, raised a quarter of the estimated five million dollar budget (many have flocked to Gerlach to prepare the track); more than 200 sponsors stumped up the rest.

**H**e also holds a fearsome reputation among the media who have gathered in Gerlach. He is an intimidating man. But, for someone who has a guaranteed place in history, I find his defensiveness baffling. "The sponsors want us to open up 100 per cent to the press, but we don't owe anything to anyone." Is he happy that the press is here? "Yes, it's fine. We can show people what we are capable of."

When I ask whether the *Thrust* coffers have benefited from worldwide publicity — as well as news coverage, the

what had happened to the world of luxuries since I last sampled it and, like Rip Van Winkle risen from a long, long sleep, I found that everything had changed. There wasn't a coffee pot shaped like a rocket, nor was there a frilly edged vase in sight. Instead, there were matt-black laptop computers, bleached wooden floors and chiffon scarves stippled with velvet.

But something else has changed as well. Extravagant shopping is a habit, and during the years of motherhood the habit had deserted me. I looked and was quite unmoved by all the consumer goodies that once would have entranced me. Worse still, a new method of exchange had entered my head: how many children's shoes can you buy for that fancy light fitting?

But then I came across something far more seductive to my temperament: a stationery shop in Covent Garden where you can buy blocky Scandinavian tables, pads of paper in bright primary colours, wooden pencils, pens made from Venetian glass, pots of gold-highlighted black ink — nothing hugely expensive, but every item a luxury, because, the truth is, a wonderful novel can be written with a Biro and a cheap pad from Tesco's. The fancy of stationery has come on by leaps and bounds since the 1990s.

I browsed there for a while in a dreamy consumer trance, and then went home to stir my partner to the same excitement. But he in the meantime had been looking at my sums on the back of the envelope. "What's all this?" he asked. I explained. "No, no," he said. "You don't understand. We were always operating at a loss. Those hundred of pounds saved are simply to stop us drifting back into debt." I stared at him. My jaw dropped. In my mind's eye, all those luxuries floated back out of the window.

And then a thought occurred to me — the kind to make a partner faint — if we're not going to be richer by stopping having babies, why not go round the loop again and have another one?

Goodbye gratuitous consumption for luxuries. I remember the early years of our marriage in a haze of love and shopping.

And then the children came, and although they enriched our lives hugely, they also, at the most basic of levels, impoverished it. In the past nine years we've been to Tesco's and Sainsbury's more times than we can remember, and bought more nappies, loaves of bread and packets of pasta than we ever could have believed. At the same time, clothes have fallen apart and gone unreplaced, and even the remote control has closed up with kiddies' pizza.

Yesterday I went down into town to see

Cobb's boat *Crusader* bobbing on Loch Ness and became fascinated by speed. He explains: "I never wanted to be one of those people who said they could have done something but didn't. I couldn't have looked my children in the eye."

Almost from nothing, Noble conjured up the money to construct *Thrust 2*, the car that, in 1983, was to carry off the land speed record that still stands.

During the time of *Thrust 2* and since, he has tried his hand at aircraft building, boat building, restaging famous motor races and after-dinner speaking. It is an crowded and impressive curriculum vitae.

But he does not appear to relax for one moment. If anything, he seems restlessly angry, although at what or whom is unclear. Perhaps he is contemplating what will happen after *Thrust* achieves, or does not achieve, its objective of going supersonic (about 750mph). If it's going to happen, it must be before early October, when seasonal rains turn the desert into a swamp: "My horizons are 24 hours at the moment. Even if I did have plans I wouldn't tell you what they were," he booms.

One thing is certain, he holds a frightening contempt for potential sponsors who backed off as soon as they found out the car was to go faster than the speed of sound. He freely admits he would like to see people sacked for their decisions. "It's a harsh world," he says, without a flicker of sympathy for those decision-makers who may not have wanted their name associated with a fatality. "You have to understand, we are a very tough little project. People can live or die by the decisions we make." In the end, the Mach 1 club, a supporters' organisation, raised a quarter of the estimated five million dollar budget (many have flocked to Gerlach to prepare the track); more than 200 sponsors stumped up the rest.

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Richard Noble with *Thrust SSC* in Nevada: "I never wanted to be one of those people who said they could have done something but didn't"

BBC and Discovery Channel are filming documentaries — he instructs me that I have "the wrong attitude". He seems not to see a link between press coverage and sponsorship. Perhaps it is frustration at not driving the car. He needed, he says, to dedicate himself to fundraising and it made sense to hand over to a younger man. "It was not a very easy decision," he admits. He makes no mention of his family. (Although the entire family is in Gerlach, only Jack trails his father with any genuine enthusiasm.) The *Thrust* team have seemingly plugged every safety loophole but everyone knows that perils may still lie in taking a car supersonic.

Two days after meeting Noble, I collar Sally in the Gerlach laundrette, next to a scrapyard. She looks completely out of place in this desert town. "I'm glad for my children that Richard's not driving," she says. "I've spoken to people who have lost their fathers and they seem to have big hang-ups."

The *Thrust* project has absorbed "23 hours" of every day of the past six years, according to Sally: "I think about it all day and all night. I even

dream about it. I wake up feeling tired."

"You never know what's round the corner. It could be stressful to some, but it's normal to us. We have had some really hard times, like when we have to pay these guys and we don't know where the money's coming from. But something always turns up, or the overdraft gets bigger." She smiles and says she doesn't mind. "It's exciting."

• *The Fastest Car on Earth*, Discovery Channel, Sunday, 8pm

□ The *Thrust SSC* is 54 feet long and weighs ten tonnes. Two Rolls-Royce Spey 202 engines provide 44,000lbs of thrust. It has a top speed of 850 mph. Its driver, Squadron Leader Andy Green, an RAF fighter pilot, describes it as a "landbound aeroplane".

□ The original design was conceived in 1992 by Ron Ayers (a former chief aero-

## FAST FACTS

dynamist in missile design), Glynn Bowsher and Richard Noble. It was refined over the next three years using computer simulations and 13 supersonic rocket tests.

□ At top speed, the car will endure 40G of force. If the car cones lifts or falls by half a

degree, the car will overturn. It is designed to stay absolutely horizontal, or "aerodynamically neutral".

□ According to the rules set by the FIA, the car must complete two runs in opposite directions over a measured mile within one hour. The narrow time window ensures the two runs are conducted under near-identical conditions.

## Shock in store for a mother

**Motherhood and sprees don't mix, says Rachel Morris**

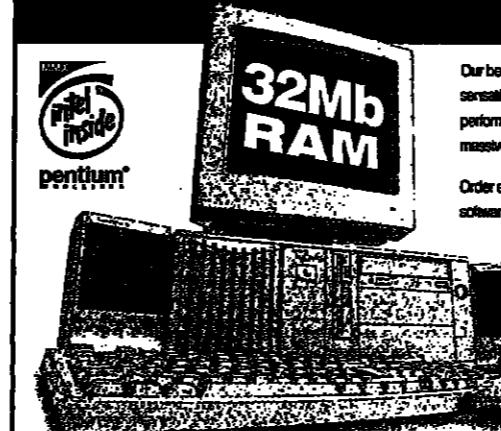


Goodbye gratuitous consumption for luxuries. I remember the early years of our marriage in a haze of love and shopping.

And then the children came, and although they enriched our lives hugely, they also, at the most basic of levels, impoverished it. In the past nine years we've been to Tesco's and Sainsbury's more times than we can remember, and bought more nappies, loaves of bread and packets of pasta than we ever could have believed. At the same time, clothes have fallen apart and gone unreplaced, and even the remote control has closed up with kiddies' pizza.

Yesterday I went down into town to see

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# Britain's removal van democracy

Don't pack up first-past-the-post, says Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

To grasp the power of symbols, ceremonies, and pageants is to appreciate the essence of political life. This month's carpet of flowers for Diana, Princess of Wales, created a new and potent image of "people power". Yet the most important symbol of the sovereignty of the electors is the modest removal van.

It was on the morning of May 2, 1997, only hours after the polls had closed, that the removal vans arrived at 10 Downing Street to ferry away John and Norma Major's belongings. As his possessions were being taken out by a back door, the outgoing Prime Minister left by the front door to tender his resignation to the Queen. He announced that he would proceed as a private citizen from Buckingham Palace to watch a game of cricket at the Kennington Oval. He would also step down as Tory leader. An hour later, Labour supporters gathered in Downing Street to celebrate the Blairs' arrival.

The spectacle of the expulsion of the Majors followed a time-honoured pattern. Lord Callaghan suffered the same fate, as did Wilson, Douglas-Home, and even Churchill on the morrow of the Second World War. So little prepared for defeat was Harold Wilson, that he had nowhere else to live and was obliged to camp out for several months in the home of Dick Crossman in Vincen Square.

Britain's "removal van democracy" has unusual virtues. First, it recognises that the election of MPs is a subsidiary function of national elections. The voters' central role is to re-elect or to dismiss governments and Prime Ministers. Second, what is really important is not to select a new government but to be able to oust an existing one. The defining characteristic of ballot box power is the citizens' ability to "throw the rascals out". It is the prospect of punishment at the next general election that provides the incentive for Prime Ministers to heed the public mood.

Third, the electoral system should make it possible for the voters to rid themselves of an unpopular government in a manner that is rapid and direct. The less obvious the connection between voting and the fate of the government, the weaker the voters become and the poorer the operation of democracy.

There can be no doubt of new Labour's appeal now. But there may come a time when voters become as anxious to get rid of Tony Blair as they were last May to dismiss the Tories. If so, there may no longer be a role for the removal van.

If Britain abandons the first-past-the-post method of electing MPs to Westminster, then future general elections are likely to be followed by a period of negotiation between different potential coalitions. The wishes of the electors will matter less than the ability of the various party leaders to bargain about the distribution of Cabinet posts and other

## Taxing times

DAVID DIMBLEBY is in dispute with the Inland Revenue over tax paid by his company. The taxman is considering whether the television presenter's firm should pay thousands of pounds.

The argument is over the Dimbleby Newspaper Group's habit of paying staff as freelancers, leaving them responsible for their own tax. It flared up after a freelance journalist at one of the group's newspapers, the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, challenged a personal tax demand. He claimed he was working full-time, in an office and with a desk, yet was being taxed as a freelancer — meaning he had to account for this out of his wages of just £23.10 a day. The Revenue wrote back to say that it was investigating the tax status of Dimbleby's journalists.

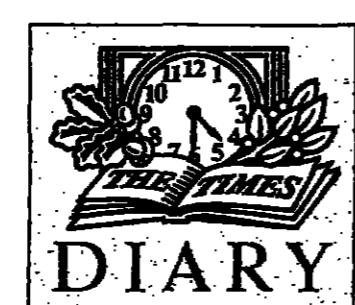
The group, which has been passed down through the Dimbleby clan, covers eight local papers, published in South London. According to the NLU, nine journalists are employed across the group on a salary of £5,775 a year.

If the Revenue investigators judge that staff work for "one effective employer", the company

could be liable for years of back tax. Union tollers are growing very exercised.

The NLU's Tim Gossill says there is "poverty all around". Mr Dimbleby at his newspapers, and says the union has been lobbying to improve pay and working conditions. Sadly, the group's managing director, Harry Lorraine, thought best not to comment.

*(Inset)* David Dimbleby, chairman of the Dimbleby Newspaper Group, and his wife, Anne, are shown in a cartoon by S. T. Gilligan.



**MIDDLEAGE** has failed to diminish the adulation for the actress Faye Dunaway, who has developed a penchant for the London restaurant, the Bombay Brasserie. "She is the only Westerner who can eat lamb mirechi, our spiciest dish," marvels the manager. "We've had all the godfathers in here — Pacino, De Niro and Brando — but none have got it down."

## Moor Myra

THOSE wishing to appraise the child murderer, Myra Hindley, will be cheered by a recent revelation by her nonagenarian champion, Lord Longford: he wants to write her biography.

"Myra deserves to be portrayed fairly," suggests Longford. "Everyone remembers her how she was

when she was arrested, but she's so different now — nothing like the Royal Academy portrait. But I won't approach any publishers until I have Myra's consent."

**MIDDLEAGE** has failed to diminish the adulation for the actress Faye Dunaway, who has developed a penchant for the London restaurant, the Bombay Brasserie. "She is the only Westerner who can eat lamb mirechi, our spiciest dish," marvels the manager. "We've had all the godfathers in here — Pacino, De Niro and Brando — but none have got it down."

Half of *The Gaylords* went on to form *The Average White Band*, which later found success in America. "I had the chance of staying on with them," said Kirkwood, guitar virtuoso. "But chose to go to pharmacy college instead."

## Fat chance

THE PROSPECT of jostling on



Brand: large as life

stage with the fat comedian Jo Brand was simply too much for Julie Christie, an actress of notably svelte proportions.

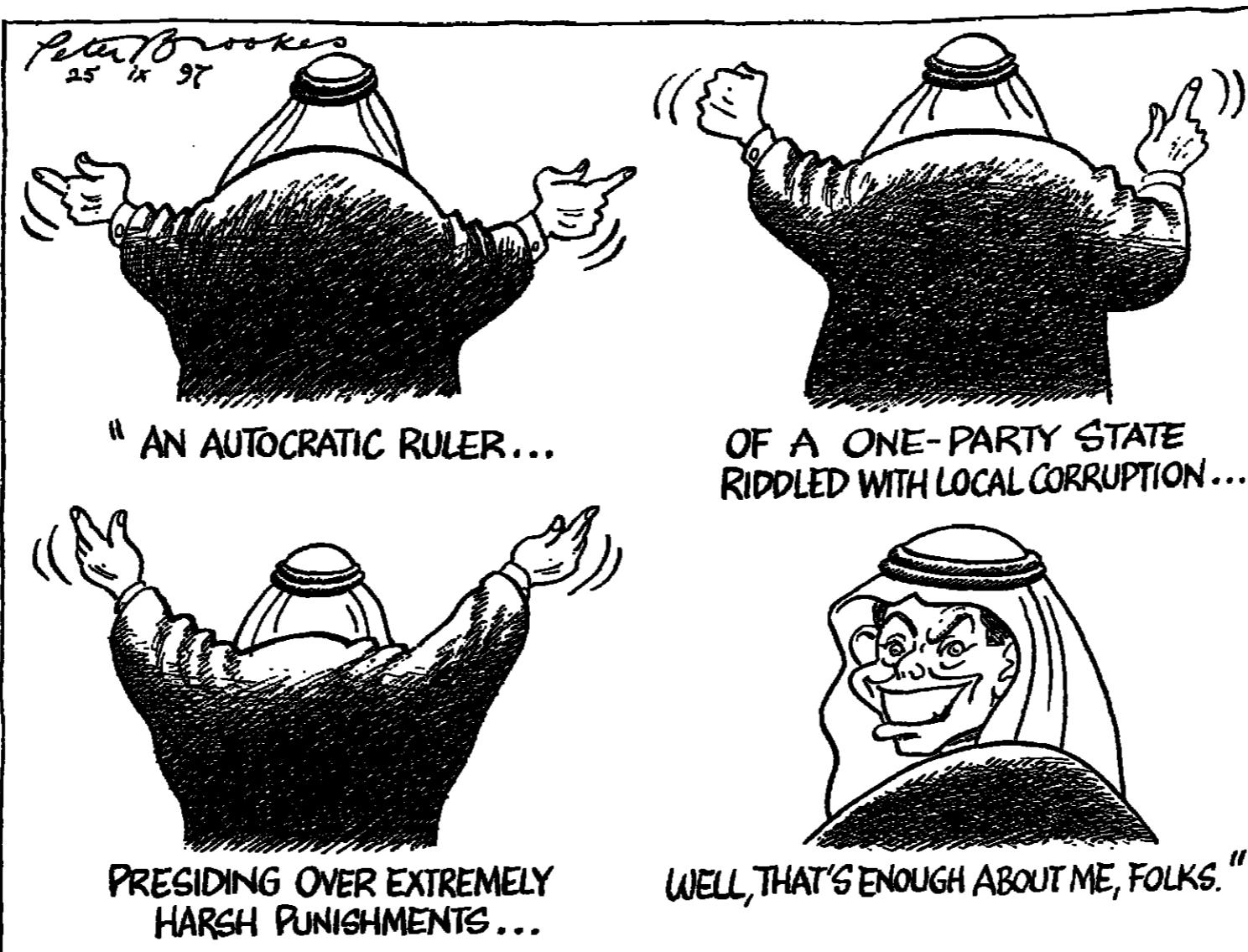
Both were due to appear at the Hackney Empire in London on Sunday night, in aid of Mind. The show, *Having a Funny Turn*, promised to "celebrate positive images of mental health" — Brand makes much of the fact that she was formerly a psychiatric nurse.

For Christie, however, there was little positive to celebrate about Brand's bulky frame. "She pulled out at the last minute," says a disengaged charity dame. "It was awful — sales waned when people realised she wasn't appearing." Meanwhile, the actress is out of touch. "She's gone abroad," says a member of her circle. "I do

not know where. It is personal."

**JUST two days after his arrival in the capital already the new American Ambassador, Philip Lader, has shown that he is a man of cultural discernment. At the launch of a restaurant themed on the American sitcom, *Cheers*, one look at the scarlet baseball-caps and *Mayday Malone* cocktails was enough. Before the waiters had time to offer him a chocolate-fudge brownie, he was out of the swinging doors and heading home to the Residence.**

P.H.S



Softly, softly in Saudi  
Magnus Linklater  
says Cook should  
revert to reticence

Saving the two British nurses, Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Parry from possible execution and public flogging should be the combined objective of both Saudi and British Governments. Whether they can achieve it may no longer be entirely in their hands. Both are under enormous pressure from public opinion, whether in Saudi Arabia or in Britain.

Such has been the outcry over the gruesome prospect of a Western woman being subjected to 500 lashes in front of a Saudi crowd that quiet diplomacy no longer seems an option. Yet that is the only way in which the two accused women can, in the longer run, be extradited without the Saudi Government losing face in the eyes of its own citizens, or Britain endangering its trading relations with one of the world's wealthiest nations.

In some ways, the yawning gap between British and Saudi concepts of justice has narrowed scarcely at all since 1980, when the TV screening of *Death of a Princess* caused led to a four-month break in diplomatic relations. It may even have widened. We are more than ever outraged by what seems to us a medieval approach to punishment and a trial system which is the opposite of open justice; we cannot understand why a country apparently anxious to improve links with the West should resist change when it comes to basic human rights. The fact that the liberally-inclined Saudi Arabian Ambassador in London should have condemned critics in Britain as "bleeding-heart liberals" shows how resistant the Saudis are to Western influence.

It can no longer be claimed that the Saudis are ignorant of the outside world. Since the Gulf War, Saudi Arabia has had growing access to television and radio programmes from abroad, and there is a liberal strand of opinion in Saudi society which might not have existed a generation ago. But among most of its people, Islamic fundamentalism has been the greater influence. Opinion polls — were they to exist — would undoubtedly register Saudi approval of punishments which horrify the West.

Headings, public floggings and harsh prison conditions are considered appropriate sentences and the pillars of Islamic justice. Western pressure to reform them is seen as an attempt to subvert not just a penal but a religious code, and the Saudi Government is well aware of the strength of popular feeling on both.

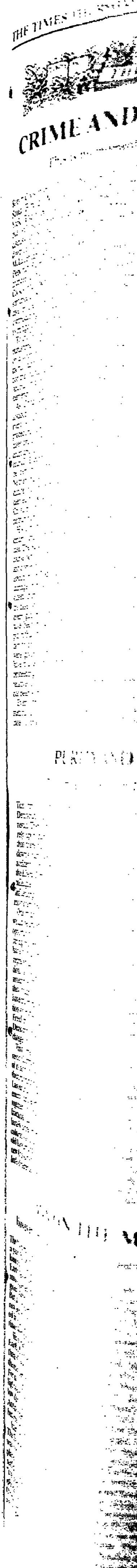
There is some justification for the charge of double standards levelled against the West. Amnesty International, which has drawn up damning reports on crime and punishment in Saudi Arabia, has been just as harsh in criticising American states which still exercise the death penalty, and where condemned men linger for years on death row before facing execution. That same organisation has even criticised primitive conditions in some British prisons.

Newspapers which caricature the Saudi regime as punitive and autocratic have often commended countries such as Singapore for meting out stiff sentences — including flogging — to juvenile delinquents. They forget that fear of violent crime in Britain is such that, were a referendum to be carried out today, there might well be a resounding majority for restoring capital punishment.

That does not mean that we should turn a blind eye to what has happened to Miss McLaughlin and Miss Parry. Everything we have learnt about their case contradicts what we consider to be natural justice. We have seen no evidence, tested in court, that they are guilty or innocent. With no written code in Islamic religious law, an accused person can be held almost indefinitely in custody. There is no automatic right to an open hearing, no access to defence witnesses, and in some cases only prosecution witnesses can be heard. Everything stems from the suspect's confession, and in this case the two accused claim that their original confessions were induced under duress. We have been treated to the unedifying spectacle of their fate being determined by members of the dead woman's family.

All of this offends us. It is understandable that it should do so. If there is such thing as a universal standard of justice, then we, and not the Saudis, are on the right side of it. It would be a great mistake, however, if natural revision were to develop into a full-blooded campaign against a whole nation and its system of justice. That would simply alienate its people and taint the hands of its Government. What matters now is not issuing public condemnations, but preventing a horrible punishment being meted out against two women who may be innocent.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, having issued his public denunciation, should revert to reticence. From now on the pressure should be maintained firmly but discreetly. It seems clear that the Saudi Government is anxious to avoid a confrontation with the United Kingdom, and it should be in our interests to achieve the same end. In so doing we will help protect rather than imperil the lives of two British citizens.





## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

### This is no moment for soundbite diplomacy

Robin Cook meets Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, tomorrow in New York. The meeting has been long planned but will now inevitably be dominated by discussion of the harsh sentence handed down on Tuesday by a Saudi court on Lucille McLauchlan and the expected verdict on Deborah Parry, the other nurse accused of murder. It could be a difficult meeting. Mr Cook's imperious remarks denouncing the sentence of 500 lashes as "wholly unacceptable in the modern world" may backfire, complicating the urgent diplomatic attempts to mitigate the sentence.

To the Western mind, flogging is a brutal punishment, particularly if it is carried out on a woman. But Mr Cook has invoked a moral yardstick that, by calling into question the sharia religious law in force in Saudi Arabia, makes it harder to appeal for clemency should that be the final result.

As Ghazi al-Ghosaibi, the Saudi Ambassador to London, has insisted, the judgment is only the first step in a lengthy procedure. Under Islamic law, all capital cases are automatically referred to a higher court and can then go to the supreme justice council. Exceptional cases such as this may be personally reviewed by King Fahd. Neither the Ambassador nor the King can dictate the sentence or throw out a verdict deemed to be guided by God. But Mr al-Ghosaibi has stated categorically that neither nurse will be beheaded.

His confidence is based on the extraordinary sensitivity that has surrounded this case. The Saudis have had to steer a difficult course between the demands of Islamic law and domestic opinion and the certainty that execution or flogging would inflict lasting damage on relations with Britain. From the outset, therefore, the Saudis have handled the case with exceptional care. The initial interrogation of the two women appears to have been rough, with well-founded suspicion that the police used extreme intimidation to obtain confessions. Yet the women were given quick access to lawyers, who have played an unprecedent role in the proceedings. Visas have been granted to relatives of the nurses; the British Embassy has been kept informed.

Even if the judges have sifted the evidence meticulously, the most vexed aspect of this case is that it has not even been made

available to the defence lawyers, much less laid out in open court. Justice will not have been seen to be done. The defence lawyers hope that this will be remedied on appeal; if sharia is to command secular respect, their request must be met.

Another complication has been the public wrangling over the attempt to induce the brother of Yvonne Gilford to waive his right to insist on the nurses' execution. Islamic law allows for clemency provided the nearest male relation is satisfied — usually with the payment of "diya" or blood money. Acting through intermediaries, the Saudis put considerable pressure on Mr Gilford to agree to such a step. He, however, was adamant that the death penalty should be enforced. It now appears that he has relented — but at a price, according to the nurses' lawyers, of \$1.2 million, a sum far beyond their families' means. A Westerner's greed could yet deny the nurses the clemency that Saudi custom makes possible.

The House of Saud is extremely sensitive to suggestions that it deals with Westerners and Christians more leniently than with its own citizens and other foreigners. Dissident exiles taunt the royal family for their links with the West. Any initial verdict strikingly at odds with normal practice would be seized on by fundamentalists to bolster their accusations. The Saudis may therefore be counting on the initial publicity to demonstrate adherence to the sharia while hoping that a less public verdict by the appeals courts will moderate the sentence.

Angry denunciations of the Saudi judgment are counter-productive and only exacerbate a clash of cultures. Sharia law is not Western law, but is respected by Muslims and is gaining ground in the Middle East rather than waning. To denounce the verdict as unacceptable implies that unless Western norms should prevail, the judicial process is unjust. It also implies that Britain has the will and means to change the verdict — which it patently does not. Such talk can only harden opinion in Riyadh. Persuasion must be tried, but always with the understanding that tough words which gain ministers favourable British headlines may not help the accused. It is as important as it will be difficult to ensure an outcome that preserves the vital relationship between Britain and an important Arab ally.

## PURITY AND POWER

### The strange dithering of Liberal England

This time six months ago, the Liberal Democrats' best hope was a close election result. Then Tony Blair might have had to rely upon them for help. Nobody believed that there was any chance of Paddy Ashdown's party wielding power without an accident of parliamentary arithmetic. Yet the Liberal Democrat leader, with four of his colleagues, is now sitting at the Cabinet table influencing the enactment of the party's most cherished aim: constitutional reform.

One might have thought that the party would be grateful to have been offered this opportunity by a Prime Minister with a 179-strong majority of his own. Already they have won a firm promise of proportional representation for the 1999 European elections, as well as for the Scottish and Welsh assemblies. They have devolution, for which they fought for a century. Soon they will have incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and, a little later, a Freedom of Information Bill. The Liberal Democrats are at last a part of long-sought changes in the way this country is governed.

That some of them are unhappy with this result illustrates the party's divisions. Most of its activists are local councillors, some of them running multi-million pound budgets. Labour councillors are usually seen as the enemy, and even if the two parties work together in coalition, relations can be fractious. Labour in local government is largely unreformed — there is still a large cultural, social and ideological gulf between old Labour and the Lib Dems. But between new Labour and the Lib Dems there is very little difference. Menzies Campbell, Robert

MacLehose and even Mr Ashdown could sit quite comfortably on the Commons benches alongside Mr Blair. The Prime Minister's views are barely distinguishable from those of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Though they would be reluctant to admit it, all these men are from the same broad tribe.

This is what Mr Ashdown was trying to convey to his activists yesterday. "I don't believe," he said, "that the only liberals in Britain are necessarily to be found in the Liberal Democrats... British politics is now entering one of its most fluid periods in this century." At last, he argued, 16 years after the new SDP promised to break the mould, it is beginning to crack."

There are, of course, advantages to Mr Blair too in co-opting the Lib Dems into his "project". This tentative alliance allows him to tap into their expertise on the minutiae of constitutional issues, which they have been studying for far longer than Labour. For all Mr Ashdown's protestations, it may make the Lib Dems a more emollient opposition in Parliament. But, most importantly, it is the first step in the Labour leader's attempt to reunite the centre-left forces in Britain.

If Liberal activists are unwilling to enter into that reagument, then they may as well lay to rest any ambition to change more than the site of their local pelican crossing. If they insist on remaining inward-looking, tribal and ideologically purist, they may just hold on to their grip on street-cleaning and school dinners. But nationally, voters are likely to treat them as they did the inward-looking, tribal and ideologically purist Labour Party of the 1980s.

## MAN ON THE MOON

### However it first rose, it will always cast a spell for romantics

The Moon may have been made in less than a year. This post-creationist theory follows a long train of explanations of the genesis of Earth's lesser light that rules the night. Erasmus suggested that the Moon was made of green cheese. He may have been teasing. But, as our Science Editor reports today, the new explanation is that the Moon was created in a cosmological flash shorter than the time taken to mature a decent Dutch cheese.

Since man first saw the hidden side of Earth's Moon and landed on its surface, less than 30 years ago, it has emerged as one of the most peculiar bodies in the Solar System. For it is disproportionately too big and too lightweight for its place in the heavens. Its low density is caused by a shortage of iron. And its anaemia and other peculiarities have become questions to puzzle the cosmologists.

Science, though, is willing to speculate. The fission hypothesis suggests the Moon was thrown off a rapidly rotating young planet, in which Earth's iron had already settled into the core. Some say that the Moon "co-accreted" from a disk of smaller bodies (planetesimals) captured into Earth's orbit. Others suggest that the wandering Moon was attracted into orbit intact. The data ob-

tained from the Apollo lunar programme is so anomalous that a modern Erasmus could joke that the only explanation is observational error: the Moon does not really exist.

The latest theory posits a giant collision. An exceptionally large planetesimal struck the Earth off-centre, vapourising much of its crust and mantle into a disk of debris swirling around the planet. This accreted into the Moon. Scientists from Colorado University have been simulating such a primal impact on computers, and today they publish their conclusions. Their models suggest that the body that hit the Earth was much bigger than previously supposed, at least three times the size of Mars. That debris coalesced in less than a year. That for a while Earth may have had two moons.

The scientists are to be congratulated on their latest fascinating beam of moonshine. But the White Goddess of romance and myth, the controversially feminine principle receiving its light from the Sun, is too old a wonder to be explained away by computer simulation. The Moon is one of the few bodies familiar to everyone on Earth. And it will retain its nightly mystery even when man is sure how it got up there.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Pensions mis-selling: commissions vs salaries and fees

*From the Chief Executive of Allied Dunbar Assurance*

Sir, You declare that switching from commission to fees and salaries is the only way the public will regain its trust in the insurance industry (leading article, "Beyond shame", September 19). I think you are misguided.

The problems of pensions mis-selling were not caused by the way salesmen are paid. If they were, you would expect all the companies on the Economic Secretary to the Treasury's "naming and shaming" list to have paid their salesmen by commission. In fact, there is a fair mixture of commission and salary-based sales forces.

These problems were caused by, among other reasons, a failure of checking and monitoring systems throughout the industry — systems which have since been developed, significantly strengthened and rigorously monitored specifically to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future. The main effect of a ban on commission would be to deny vital financial advice to large numbers of people.

To do their job properly, financial advisers must carry out a great deal of costly research and consultation with each potential client in the early years before the client decides to buy, often at a time when the client may not be earning much income. Force people to pay fees of several hundred pounds up front without knowing if they want to

purchase a product and many, probably most, would choose not to bother. That being the case, then when would the Government meet its aim to encourage people to make their own financial provisions?

Commission charged to the product has the effect of spreading costs over many years, and therefore encourages the client to consult an adviser and think long-term — to the client's benefit. We ban commissions at our peril.

Yours faithfully,  
A. STEPHEN MELCHER,  
Chief Executive,  
Allied Dunbar Assurance plc,  
Allied Dunbar Centre,  
Swindon SN1 1EL  
September 19.

*From Mr Keith Douglas*

Sir, I agree with the view expressed in your leader that pensions salesmen and independent financial advisers should be paid salaries or fees rather than commission.

Under a fee-based system the amounts charged by advisers would be more closely scrutinised for value for money. Handing over a cheque for £1,000 for advice is very different from having the same amount deducted from your first two or three years' investments. I don't believe that the majority of investors will accept fees at the levels required to replace existing commission-based incomes.

A fee-based system will require the

salesmen in the industry to adjust their income expectations to more reasonable levels, to the benefit of their customers. That is why the industry will not willingly abolish commission-based selling.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH DOUGLAS,  
4 Thickwillow,  
Godmanchester,  
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire  
keithdouglas@compuserve.com  
September 19.

*From Mr Philip Prior*

Sir, May I suggest that the answer to the mis-selling problem is for the Government to ban the companies concerned from selling any more pension schemes until the matter is put right.

I fancy that the effect would be instantaneous.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP PRIOR,  
135 Chalmers Street,  
Dunfermline, Fife.  
September 20.

*From Mr David Crawford*

Sir, All I read about is mis-selling of pensions. Was there no mis-buying?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID CRAWFORD,  
Mill Bridge, Bell Busk,  
Skippton-in-Craven, North Yorkshire.  
September 19.

### Opposition view on London's future

*From Mr Richard Ottaway, MP for Croydon South (Conservative)*

Sir, Next May, following the precedents of Scotland and Wales, Londoners will be invited to participate in a referendum on the Government's proposals for a Greater London authority comprising a mayor and an assembly. Both proposals should be considered separately in a two-question referendum.

There are merits in the proposal for a directly elected mayor, which the Conservative Party supports. He or she will be a voice for London, a champion of Londoners and will have a mandate to promote London on the world and national stage.

There are, however, conflicting views as to whether or not a Greater London authority would have the same effectiveness. Londoners are already well represented by 32 London boroughs with a wealth of expertise and experience of local government.

Many believe that an additional layer of local government is unnecessary, bureaucratic and costly. It

will add nothing to the better government of London and will probably be a backward step. There will be conflict between the boroughs and the authority, between the assembly and the mayor. This will lead to indecisiveness and gridlock, to the detriment of Londoners.

Under the circumstances, the Conservative Party believes there should be two questions in the referendum: do Londoners want (i) a mayor (yes or no) and (ii) a Greater London assembly (yes or no)?

For varying reasons others may want an authority and not a mayor. Whatever their position, a true sounding of Londoners' feelings cannot be achieved by grouping these proposals together in a single question. There must be two separate questions where the merits of both proposals can be fully debated.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD OTTAWAY  
(Opposition Spokesman for London),  
House of Commons.  
September 22.

### Drink and health

*From Mr Rodney Legg*

Sir, Many of us are increasingly indebted to daily doses of Dr Tom Stuttaford. Seeing his name each morning reminds us to swallow a "blood-thinning" aspirin tablet.

His articles, including the extracts from his book on alcohol (September 13-17; letters, September 20) provide a welcome antidote to half a century of censure against life's little enjoyments. At last there is reassurance that moderate indulgences are not only good for us (physiologically as well as psychologically) but promise to be lifesaving.

As for the measure, it is hardly to be regretted that two to four glasses of claret a day, with meals, may well prove to be more effective than drinking just one.

Cheers to our greatest guru.

Yours sincerely,  
RODNEY LEGG,  
The National School,  
North Street, Wincanton, Somerset.

*From Mr Eric Sjogren*

Sir, Every time a claim is made that drink is good for you, practising alco-

holics around the world stand up and cheer. They have just been handed another argument to continue drinking and refuse help.

Dr Stuttaford takes care to point out that his recommendations refer to moderate drinkers. For every non-drinking, recovering alcoholic there are vast numbers of active alcoholics who insist that they always drink in moderation.

It seems that drink played a part in the crash in which Princess Diana died. How many other alcohol-related traffic deaths go unreported every day? Nations do not mourn them, but families do. How many suicides? How many battered women, abused children, ruined careers, bankrupt businesses?

I cast no aspersions on Dr Stuttaford's agenda or the validity of the findings he reports. But every medical man must be aware of side effects, and the side effect of his book, magnified through your serialisation, is to encourage "moderate" drinkers in the pursuit of their deadly addiction.

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC SJOGREN,  
37 rue Gosselain,  
18 Brussels.  
September 15.

### Immigration queues

*From the Home Office Minister*

Sir, Today's item, "So tired of waiting" (Inns and Outs, Law) misrepresents the situation in the Immigration Directorate's Public Enquiry Office (PEO) at Lunar House in Croydon.

The PEO provides a free service aimed at individuals. Many have travelled long distances, at their own expense, to see our staff. On some days we see over 1,000 people.

They are not "City lawyers and businessmen" camping out all night, but couriers representing paid agents delivering block applications from

clients. If these are handled as one enquiry lengthy queues develop and individual applicants are made to wait longer.

To make this fairer, staff now examine one case per person and use a fast-track postal system which deals with individual applications in a few days.

Agents are invited to come on a designated day when they can present up to six applications in one go.

Yours sincerely,  
MIKE O'BRIEN,  
Home Office,  
50 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.  
September 23.

### Catholics at Queens

*From Sir Gordon Beveridge, Vice-Chancellor of The Queen's University of Belfast*

Sir, Your report of September 18, headed "Women-only battle for Irish presidency", claims that Professor Mary McAleese, a candidate for the presidency, was "the first Catholic to gain a senior position in Queen's". This is incorrect.

Roman Catholics have been professors, heads of department, directors of schools and institutes, deans of faculties and pro-vice-chancellor, in the years prior to Professor McAleese's appointment.

Two Roman Catholics, including a

distinguished cleric, have been senior pro-chancellors, acting, *inter alia*, as Chairman of Senate, the university's governing body. However Professor McAleese as you stated, was "the university's first woman pro-vice-chancellor".

Yours sincerely,  
GORDON BEVERIDGE,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
The Queen's University of Belfast,  
Belfast BT7 1NN.  
September 22.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: [letters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:letters@the-times.co.uk)

### The right stuff for military greatness

*From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin*

Sir, Reading Colonel Lanning's league table of military leaders and the subsequent correspondence in your columns (reports, September 15; letters, September 17, 20), I reflect that very many of the generals would not have reached the battlefields without assured free use of the sea and enough ships to keep them supplied with the necessities of war.

"He who commands the sea has command of everything." Themistocles 500BC. Still true.

Yours sincerely,  
LEWIN





# THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1997

## NEWS

### \$1.2 million price for nurse's life

The brother of an Australian nurse stabbed to death in Saudi Arabia is demanding \$1.2 million "blood money" to spare the life of the British nurse accused of murdering her.

Salah al-Hejailan, a Saudi lawyer representing the Britons, said Frank Gilford had demanded that the two give \$500,000 (nearly £300,000) to a children's hospital and pay him the rest. He described the sum as extortionate, but said the two Britons had agreed to the deal. .... Pages 1, 3, 20

### 'No national wage for under-25s'

The Government is considering exempting young people, possibly up to the age of 25, from the national minimum wage. The move will delight business and alarm the unions. But ministers are insisting that the full economic impact of a minimum wage must be taken into account. .... Page 1

### Ashdown's gamble

In a bold address, Paddy Ashdown told the Lib-Dems to reap the reward of closer co-operation with Labour rather than the sidelines. .... Pages 1, 12, 21

### Ulster 'breakthrough'

Northern Ireland's parties were close to the breakthrough required for full peace talks after the Ulster Unionist Party dropped its demand for guaranteed IRA disarmament. .... Page 1

### Tough press code

Dramatic changes to the Press Complaints Commission's privacy code to provide extra protection for children and end harassment by photographers are to be announced today. .... Page 2

### Prince's project

The Prince of Wales will tomorrow launch an ambitious project to save some of Britain's largest and grandest historic buildings from decay. .... Page 4

### Ethical guidance

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health outlined five cases in which doctors should consider stopping medical treatment from children. .... Page 6

### Surgeon accused

John Studd, a leading Harley Street gynaecologist, was accused of "playing God" after he admitted removing a 35-year-old woman's ovaries without her consent. .... Page 3

### True bulldog breed reborn

The canine establishment has scorned an attempt to restore the bulldog, emblem of all that is great about Britain, to its former glory. Breeder Ken Mollott wants to take the dog back to its Victorian stature, but the Kennel Club, which views change with alarm, says people want couch-potato dogs to go with their couch-potato lives. .... Page 1



French photographers refuse to take pictures of Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, and Marie-Georges Buffet, Sports Minister, after a Cabinet meeting. They were protesting at the inquiry into their colleagues over the fatal car crash of Diana, Princess of Wales. Page 17

## BUSINESS

**Bank deal:** Travelers, the American insurance and brokerage giant, has made an agreed £5.5 billion bid for Salomon Inc, the American investment bank. .... Page 25

**McDonalds:** The fast-food giant is planning to convert 1.6 million students to the delights of the Big Mac by offering extra hamburgers free with their meals. .... Page 25

**Diet food:** Scotia, which tries to develop drugs from naturally occurring fats, is working on a yogurt that can fool weight-conscious consumers they are feeling full. .... Page 25

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 index rose 49.7 points to 5077.2. Sterling fell from 101.4 to 100.3 after a fall from \$1.6127 to \$1.6124 and from DM2.9948 to DM2.8565. .... Page 28

## SPORT

**Football:** Second division Fulham club are hoping to announce that Kevin Keegan, out of the game since January, will join them on a part-time basis. .... Page 48

**Golf:** Miguel Angel Martin's Ryder Cup career began and ended with a stage-managed show of solidarity that did little to soothe the troubled waters of Valderrama. .... Page 48

**Rugby union:** Clive Woodward, England's new coach, will not hesitate to make changes before the November internationals against New Zealand twice, Australia and South Africa. .... Page 42

**Olympic Games:** None of Britain's Olympic competitors have yet received Lottery funding to prepare for the winter Games in Nagano next February. .... Page 48

## ARTS

**Film:** Rich pickings: At a teeming Toronto Film Festival Geoff Brown stands in line to watch money fly as the big distributors fight over the young prize-winners. .... Page 34

**New movies:** After a stream of sci-fi silliness on the big screen, it comes as quite a shock to watch *Contact*, Robert Zemeckis's intelligent exploration of space. .... Page 35

**Rugby:** Out of the blue: The two short plays titled *Blue Heart* arrive in London from Edinburgh to confirm Caryl Churchill as our most inventive, unpredictable current dramatist. .... Page 36

**Roll over:** David Sinclair is in Chicago to see the Rolling Stones launch their new world tour, and finds their delinquent energy flowing as creatively as ever. .... Page 37

## FEATURES

**Control:** Dr Thomas Stuttaford on controlling depression; why Thalidomide is still prescribed; cerebral tumours and changes in behaviour; genes for jeans day and the risk of breast cancer. .... Page 18

**Faster, faster:** The fastest man on earth, Richard Noble, is also masterminding the project to break his own land speed record. Anjana Ahuja reports. .... Page 19

## FOCUS

**Relocation:** How the United Kingdom is becoming a magnet for companies wanting a manufacturing base in Europe. .... Pages 30, 31

## BOOKS

**Tony future:** Michael Portillo on the future of the Conservative Party; Malcolm Bradbury on Kurt Vonnegut's last work. .... Pages 38, 39

## TRAVEL NEWS

**Car menu:** Guests at a hotel in the Cotswold village of Broadway will soon be able to request an extra menu — for cars. They will have a choice of classic and Edwardian cars. .... Page 41

## THE PAPERS

The repulsive events of recent days [in Algeria] could well mean that President Zeroual has been forced to give way to the military oligarchy. .... *Le Soir, Brussels*

## TV LISTINGS

**Preview:** Warren Clarke plays a man on the revenge trail. *The Locksmith* (BBC1, 9.30pm) Review: Joe Joseph finds Robbie Coltrane all at sea. .... Pages 46, 47

## OPINION

**Crime and punishment:** Mr Cook's intemperate remarks denouncing the sentence of 500 lashes as "wholly unacceptable" raise a serious obstacle in the urgent diplomatic attempts to mitigate the sentence. .... Page 21

## Purity and power

If Liberal activists are unwilling to enter into that realignment, then they may as well lay to rest any ambition to change more than the site of their local pelican crossing. .... Page 21

## Man on the moon

The White Goddess of romance and myth, the controversial feminine principle receiving its light from the Sun, is too old a wonder to be explained away by computer simulation. .... Page 21

## COLUMNS

**WILLIAM REES-MOGG:** Clinton expresses the sentiments one might find on a condolence card. He is a sentimentalist of genius, a Southern, honey-smoked ham. .... Page 20

**M PINTO-DUSCHINSKY:** Lib-Dem politicians are relishing the imminent prospect of PR, which would mean that instead of being permanently excluded from power, they might find themselves permanently in office. .... Page 20

**JOHN BRYANT:** One of the great social values of sport was that it kept kids off the streets. But try telling that to cyclist Tony Adams. .... Page 46

## OBITUARIES

**Professor Geoffrey Bantock:** educationist; Rear-Admiral David Dusbar-Nasmith; Muqizzuddin Farooqi, Communist. .... Page 23

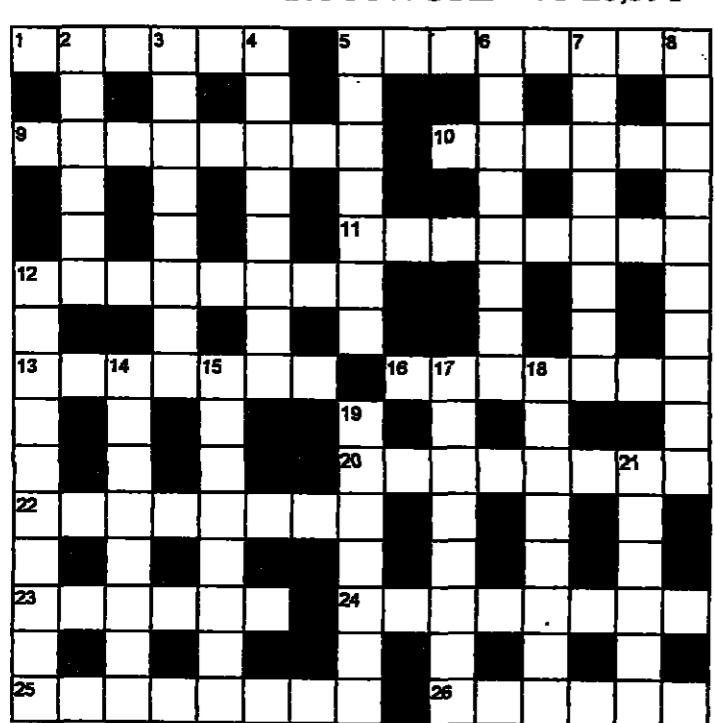
## LETTERS

Pensions mis-selling: Opposition view on referendum for London; Lord Russell on Lib Dem/Labour co-operation; right stuff for military leadership. .... Page 21

## NOTES

12, 14, 29, 31, 32, 44, Bonus 46. Jackpot was £14.1 million.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,594



## INFORMATION

**Latest Road and Weather conditions:** UK Weather - All regions 0236 444 910; UK Roads - All regions 0236 401 410; UK Rail 0236 401 420; P25 and Link Roads 0236 401 767; National Motorways 0236 401 748; Channel crossings 0236 401 768; Motorways 0236 401 769; Flying 0236 401 770; London 0236 401 771; Paris 0236 401 772; Rome 0236 401 773; Madrid 0236 401 774; Paris 0236 401 775; Rome 0236 401 776; Madrid 0236 401 777; Paris 0236 401 778; Rome 0236 401 779; Madrid 0236 401 780; Paris 0236 401 781; Rome 0236 401 782; Madrid 0236 401 783; Paris 0236 401 784; Rome 0236 401 785; Madrid 0236 401 786; Paris 0236 401 787; Rome 0236 401 788; Madrid 0236 401 789; Paris 0236 401 790; Rome 0236 401 791; Madrid 0236 401 792; Paris 0236 401 793; Rome 0236 401 794; Madrid 0236 401 795; Paris 0236 401 796; Rome 0236 401 797; Madrid 0236 401 798; Paris 0236 401 799; Rome 0236 401 800; Madrid 0236 401 801; Paris 0236 401 802; Rome 0236 401 803; Madrid 0236 401 804; Paris 0236 401 805; Rome 0236 401 806; Madrid 0236 401 807; Paris 0236 401 808; Rome 0236 401 809; Madrid 0236 401 810; Paris 0236 401 811; Rome 0236 401 812; Madrid 0236 401 813; Paris 0236 401 814; Rome 0236 401 815; Madrid 0236 401 816; Paris 0236 401 817; Rome 0236 401 818; Madrid 0236 401 819; Paris 0236 401 820; Rome 0236 401 821; Madrid 0236 401 822; Paris 0236 401 823; Rome 0236 401 824; Madrid 0236 401 825; Paris 0236 401 826; Rome 0236 401 827; Madrid 0236 401 828; Paris 0236 401 829; Rome 0236 401 830; Madrid 0236 401 831; Paris 0236 401 832; Rome 0236 401 833; Madrid 0236 401 834; Paris 0236 401 835; Rome 0236 401 836; Madrid 0236 401 837; Paris 0236 401 838; Rome 0236 401 839; Madrid 0236 401 840; Paris 0236 401 841; Rome 0236 401 842; Madrid 0236 401 843; Paris 0236 401 844; Rome 0236 401 845; Madrid 0236 401 846; Paris 0236 401 847; Rome 0236 401 848; Madrid 0236 401 849; Paris 0236 401 850; Rome 0236 401 851; Madrid 0236 401 852; Paris 0236 401 853; Rome 0236 401 854; Madrid 0236 401 855; Paris 0236 401 856; Rome 0236 401 857; Madrid 0236 401 858; Paris 0236 401 859; Rome 0236 401 860; Madrid 0236 401 861; Paris 0236 401 862; Rome 0236 401 863; Madrid 0236 401 864; Paris 0236 401 865; Rome 0236 401 866; Madrid 0236 401 867; Paris 0236 401 868; Rome 0236 401 869; Madrid 0236 401 870; Paris 0236 401 871; Rome 0236 401 872; Madrid 0236 401 873; Paris 0236 401 874; Rome 0236 401 875; Madrid 0236 401 876; Paris 0236 401 877; Rome 0236 401 878; Madrid 0236 401 879; Paris 0236 401 880; Rome 0236 401 881; Madrid 0236 401 882; Paris 0236 401 883; Rome 0236 401 884; Madrid 0236 401 885; Paris 0236 401 886; Rome 0236 401 887; Madrid 0236 401 888; Paris 0236 401 889; Rome 0236 401 890; Madrid 0236 401 891; Paris 0236 401 892; Rome 0236 401 893; Madrid 0236 401 894; Paris 0236 401 895; Rome 0236 401 896; Madrid 0236 401 897; Paris 0236 401 898; Rome 0236 401 899; Madrid 0236 401 900; Paris 0236 401 901; Rome 0236 401 902; Madrid 0236 401 903; Paris 0236 401 904; Rome 0236 401 905; Madrid 0236 401 906; Paris 0236 401 907; Rome 0236 401 908; Madrid 0236 401 909; Paris 0236 401 910; Rome 0236 401 911; Madrid 0236 401 912; Paris 0236 401 913; Rome 0236 401 914; Madrid 0236 401 915; Paris 0236 401 916; Rome 0236 401 917; Madrid 0236 401 918; Paris 0236 401 919; Rome 0236 401 920; Madrid 0236 401 921; Paris 0236 401 922; Rome 0236 401 923; Madrid 0236 401 924; Paris 0236 401 925; Rome 0236 401 926; Madrid 0236 401 927; Paris 0236 401 928; Rome 0236 401 929; Madrid 0236 401 930; Paris 0236 401 931; Rome 0236 401 932; Madrid 0236 401 933; Paris 0236 401 934; Rome 0236 401 935; Madrid 0236 401 936; Paris 0236 401 937; Rome 0236 401 938; Madrid 0236 401 939; Paris 0236 401 940; Rome 0236 401 941; Madrid 0236 401 942; Paris 0236 401 943; Rome 0236 401 944; Madrid 0236 401 945; Paris 0236 401 946; Rome 0236 401 947; Madrid 0236 401 948; Paris 0236 401 949; Rome 0236 401 950; Madrid 0236 401 951; Paris 0236 401 952; Rome 0236 401 953; Madrid 0236 401 954; Paris 0236 401 955; Rome 0236 401 956; Madrid 0236 401 957; Paris 0236 401 958; Rome 0236 401 959; Madrid 0236 401 960; Paris 0236 401 961; Rome 0236 401 962; Madrid 0236 401 963; Paris 0236 401 964; Rome 0236 401 965; Madrid 0236 401 966; Paris 0236 401 967; Rome 0236 401 968; Madrid 0236 401 969; Paris 0236 401 970; Rome 0236 401 971; Madrid 0236 401 972; Paris 0236 401 973; Rome 0236 401 974; Madrid 0236 401 975; Paris 0236 401 976; Rome 0236 401 977; Madrid 0236 401 978

# THE TIMES



INSIDE  
SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



## BUSINESS

Firm behind \$10m  
liar's poker is  
dealt \$9bn hand  
**PAGE 29**

## TRAVEL

Classic cars go on  
the menu in  
a Cotswold hotel  
**PAGES 40, 41**

## SPORT

Why Keegan may  
be heading for  
Craven Cottage  
**PAGES 42-48**

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
46, 47**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1997

# Salomon falls to \$9bn takeover



Peter Middleton walked away from a £50,000 bonus to run Salomon Bros

## Travelers makes agreed offer for US investment bank

FROM OLIVER AUGUST  
IN NEW YORK

TRAVELERS GROUP, the financial services company, yesterday launched an agreed \$9 billion (£5.6 billion) takeover bid for Salomon, the US investment bank.

The takeover will unite Smith Barney, Traveler's broking subsidiary, and Salomon Brothers, creating the world's fourth-largest equity underwriter and the second-largest US debt underwriter based on 1996 figures.

Salomon Smith Barney will be led by Deryck Maughan, 49, the son of a Durham miner, who spent ten years at the Treasury, and James Dimon, the Smith Barney executive chairman, as co-chief executives. After completion, Robert Denham, chairman of Salomon Inc, the holding company, will depart. In a joint state-

ment the two groups said: "Salomon Smith Barney will be a global, full-service securities firm that combines Salomon's traditional strength in fixed-income and international presence with Smith Barney's traditional strength in equities, retail distribution, municipal finance and asset management."

Salomon will take a \$500 million restructuring charge mainly for an undisclosed number of redundancies. Salomon staff in London have been reassured that their jobs are mostly safe because of Smith Barney's domestic US focus. But staff at Salomon's head office in New York were told to expect job losses after a move into Smith Barney's offices where "there won't be room for all of you". The merger is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Travelers is offering 1.13 of

its shares, the equivalent of \$81.43, for every Salomon share, worth \$71.50 at close on Tuesday. In May, Salomon shares were trading at less than \$50. Yesterday they quickly zoomed up to \$79 after assessments that regulatory approval was likely.

Mr Maughan said: "The times are changing and we must change with them. Of all the possible combinations we could make, this is the most attractive — from both a cultural as well as a business point of view. Salomon and Smith Barney are a natural fit. I could not be happier."

Mr Dimon said: "Merging Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers accomplishes in a short time what would have taken either of us a considerable time to build."

The takeover more than fulfils Travelers' acquisition criteria. Sandford Weill, exec-

utive chairman, said: "We immediately and significantly strengthen Travelers' earnings stream and capital base while catapulting Salomon Smith Barney into the top tier of global securities and investment banks."

The deal is the latest in a series in the US financial services industry. Brokers, banks, insurers and fund managers are taking advantage of the easing of banking regulations. Analysts see the deal as a response to the merger of Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter.

Steven Cohen, of Kellner Dileo, a merger arbitrage firm, said: "Salomon is in a lot of businesses that Travelers are not in right now, such as proprietary trading and investment banking."

Commentary, page 27  
Liar's poker, page 29



Deryck Maughan, the son of a Durham miner, will be the co-chief executive

## Middleton makes up for lost bonus

PETER MIDDLETON walked away from a £50,000 bonus when he quit Lloyd's of London to run the European operations of Salomon Brothers. Two years on, he is laughing all the way to the bank — along with nearly 7,000 very happy Salomon employees (Jon Ashworth writes).

Salomon allows staff to buy shares in the firm at a discount, netting huge potential windfalls from the Smith Barney deal. The real winners are those who have been given shares as part of their annual bonus under Salomon's stock incentive plan. Some long-servers were is-

ued shares at as little as \$30 each — leaving them with a \$51-a-share windfall.

Salomon employees together speak for about 20 per cent of the firm's shares. Mr Middleton, who will continue to run European operations for the enlarged securities house, is likely to be enriched by several million pounds.

Perhaps the biggest single winner is Shigeru "Sugar" Myojin, London-based head of proprietary trading, who was paid \$31 million in 1996, including \$2 million in shares.

Deryck Maughan, head of Salomon's worldwide operations, was paid \$11.5 million.

## Buffett's investment yields \$1.4bn profit

THE purchase of Salomon Brothers will further enhance the reputation of Warren Buffett, "the Sage of Omaha", who ploughed \$700 million (£434 million) of his investors' money into the brokerage in 1987, backed the firm in its darkest hour and is now sitting on a profit of more than \$1.4 billion (Jason Nisze writes).

Berkshire Hathaway, Mr Buffett's fund, bought \$700 million of Salomon preferred shares in 1987, showing faith at the time of the Wall Street crash. The shares carry a dividend of 9 per cent, paying Mr Buffett around \$60 million over the decade.

When Salomon was hit by the bonds scandal in the early 1990s, Mr Buffett stepped into the breach and became the firm's chairman. He also invested further in Salomon shares, spending an estimated \$320 million.

Mr Buffett cashed in \$140 million of preferred stock two years ago and converted \$140 million worth of \$38 a share last year. The remaining \$420 million converts at \$38 per Salomon share into Travelers shares once yesterday's deal proceeds. The bid values each Salomon share at \$81 and Mr Buffett's holding in Travelers at \$7.3 billion.

## Granada rules out disposal of Méridien Hotels

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CHARLES ALLEN, chief executive of Granada, yesterday ruled out a disposal of the upmarket Méridien Hotels chain but indicated that the Forte Heritage chain will eventually be sold.

Mr Allen, who has spent this week briefing City analysts and corporate clients on the group's plans, admitted there had been "a lot of confusion" over the future of Méridien. During the bid for Forte, Granada said it would be sold off, only to change its stance.

Mr Allen said: "We see Méridien as a significant opportunity. I don't want to own bricks and mortar around the world, but we're committed to it as a management contract business."

There are more than 90 Méridiens around the world and 16 under construction, and the aim is to hit 150 by the year 2000. Mr Allen added that the 30 owned properties outside the UK would be sold

over time provided Granada retained the management contract. He revealed that the brand would also be developed through strategic alliances with other hotel chains, particularly in the USA and Asia Pacific.

In the UK, Posthouse and the budget Travelodge chain are to benefit from next year's planned £200 million investment programme, with Posthouse being put through a £60 million makeover. However, the 65-strong Heritage chain will eventually be sold off.

Thirteen hotels were put up for sale in the summer and Mr Allen conceded: "If we took a five-year view, we probably wouldn't be owners of the Heritage portfolio."

The Grosvenor House will be sold provided Granada can get the £50 million it is looking for, but some other exclusive hotels that remain unsold may be retained.

Commentary, page 27

## Joe Bloggs founder saves Emanuel

SHAMI AHMED, the multi-millionaire founder of Joe Bloggs, the high street clothing company, yesterday stepped in at the last minute to save the exclusive fashion business owned by Elizabeth Emanuel (Curtis Ayres writes).

Ms Emanuel achieved worldwide recognition after designing the wedding dress worn by Diana, Princess of Wales. She had pleaded for financial help last month after the collapse of Hamlet, the clothing importer that owned a 48 per cent stake in her business. In the jeans, page 29



Emanuel: financial plea

## McDonald's fast food course for college students

BY MARTIN WALLER

MCDONALD'S, the huge hamburger chain, is planning to convert the country's 1.6 million students to the Big Mac by issuing a special privilege card offering them extra hamburgers free with their meals. The card is being distributed through the National Union of Students.

The aim is that all students will receive the cards in time for the academic term just starting and be valid on production of an NUS membership card, until August.

The marketing drive is the biggest push yet into the student market, which is already being courted by any number of commercial concerns, such as banks keen to catch consumers early in their working lives.

For McDonald's, the aim is the opposite. The company, locked in a bitter marketing battle with Burger King, is trying to reach out to an older consumer base, say observers.

Ronald McDonald, the clown

used as the company's mascot, is more associated with the children's market.

A company spokesman said ad hoc deals with local colleges were already in place, but the cards would now be useable across the country.

The idea of marketing McDonald's to students would have been unthinkable a few years ago in the heyday of student radicalism, and it is likely to attract some considerable criticism now. McDonald's is deeply unpopular in liberal circles.

The company has just emerged from a mammoth libel action against two environmental activists and is highly sensitive to suggestions that its production methods damage the planet's rainforests, or use large amounts of chemicals and preservatives.

But McDonald's said: "We don't get involved in the politics of this. We're selling food."

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## New yoghurt that fools the stomach

BY PAUL DURMAN

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the company that tries to develop drugs from naturally occurring fats, is working on a yoghurt that fools weight-conscious consumers that they are full up.

If Scotia can prove its claims, the active ingredient in the yoghurt is potentially worth tens or even hundreds of millions of pounds to the company. Sales of the yoghurt in the Swedish market alone could generate up to £10 million for Scotia, it believes. But yoghurts are only a starting point.

because Scotia believes that its fat extract can be added to almost any kind of food without encountering regulatory problems.

David Horrobin, Scotia's chief executive, said: "We believe this has major potential. It has strong patent protection, it is entirely natural, and it does not involve any of the fat substitutes or any of the alternatives that have run into trouble recently."

Some existing appetite-suppressing drugs have recently been withdrawn from the market because of new evidence that they cause heart prob-

lems. Scotia is working on the yoghurt with an unnamed Swedish milk company, which plans to begin test marketing the product early next year.

Scotia's LipidTeknik arm is initially developing its so-called 'meal brake' as a food ingredient — cutting out much of the testing that would be necessary if it was to be marketed as a weight control drug.

The fat extract works by prompting a chemical release in the gut that slows digestion and gives the sensation of being full. Initial testing of the yoghurt on 60 people suggests that it can cut calorie intake at a meal by 15-30 per cent.

Scotia has not always delivered on its most exciting products, and its science is regarded with scepticism in some quarters. However, last week's \$54 million (£33.5 million) licensing deal for Foscan, its laser-activated cancer drug, have bolstered confidence in its most important product.

Scotia's first-half sales grew by 38 per cent to £10 million. But higher research and development spending increased the pre-tax loss from £7 million to £12.8 million.



Over breakfast in Downing Street yesterday, Tony Blair's words to a collection of business big chiefs were as warm and comforting as the croissants. Any sensible political party should be pro-business and pro-enterprise, he told them. Sceptics might have taken this as merely the latest example of the cosyng-up to business that Labour has done since Mr Blair took on the leadership. But it is looking increasingly as if the Government may be moving in tune with what business wants.

Margaret Beckett's latest move over the planned national minimum wage certainly points in that direction. Although most businesses would be happier without the imposition of any such restriction on how they reward their workforce, the indications from the President of the Board of Trade yesterday are that the level is likely to be set sufficiently low to cause little pain to employers.

In spite of his energetic wooing of corporate Britain, Mr Blair's arrival at No 10 had posed two big concerns for business. The first was the plan to force companies to recognise trade unions; the second was the threat of a national minimum wage.

The issue of union recognition remains a red rag to some businessmen, but, having accepted that it is inevitable, the CBI is at least being involved with the TUC in the process of trying to come up with workable proposals that

## Blair gets in tune with business



### COMMENTARY by our City Editor

might enable both sides of the employment equation to be relatively sanguine about the effects of the legislation. And now the Low Pay Commission is being given guidelines, which old Labour might interpret as a muzzle, that should ensure the commission has virtually no bite.

The obligation to take the economic implications of a minimum wage fully into account when recommending its level coupled with the demand to consider exemptions for young people, ought to encourage a sensible chap like George Bain to produce some very workable recommendations.

He will, for instance, be taking heed of today's survey from the British Chambers of Commerce, which emphasises that the level of the minimum wage will be crucial in determining the impact on jobs and inflation generally.

So far the signs from the commission look optimistic. Business leaders, trade unionists and the independent academics on it seem determined to reach a recommendation that will strike precisely that balance.

Next week, at the party conference in Brighton, Labour leaders will be faced with the challenge of continuing to keep

the confidence of business while not alienating too many members of the party. But the hard-hitting speech that Tony Blair gave to the TUC gathering indicates the direction in which he will err. Some members of the TUC are still reeling from his instructions that they must bring themselves up to date or vanish for ever. As one stalwart union man remarked, not even Lady Thatcher at her fiercest would have dared deliver such a lecture in the lions' den.

#### Now life really begins at Forte

Gerry Robinson and his team at Granada have made little secret of their disdain for the way most hoteliers run their businesses. During the hard-fought contest for Forte, the public criticisms were muted compared with the intimations that have come as the company has tried to impose

new methods and financial disciplines on its acquisition.

But there is now an air of gentle gloating emanating from Granada: it claims to have achieved the level of profit improvement it sought. "We told you we could do it," they boast. Of course, it has been painful, they say. Jobs have had to go, morale has suffered. But now the rewards will be reaped. Let the new investment flow as the company demonstrates a continued commitment to the hotel business.

The Méridien chain, which some had thought likely to be in search of a new owner before long, is instead turned into an important part of future strategy, but romantics can forget any idea of Granada being a convert to the idea of hotels as a special sort of business, in need of particular indulgence. Instead, Granada chief executive Charles Allen says Méridien is similar to Sutcliffe, the contract catering

company, in which Granada's techniques have succeeded in lifting margins from 4 per cent to more than twice that level. Some 15 Méridien contracts have been won in the past 18 months and more are in the pipeline. You can almost taste the portion control beginning.

But the changes go far beyond that. In a series of presentations to the City, Granada has been keen to show off just what innovation it has made at Forte, and it ranges from the introduction state-of-the-art systems to sales and marketing programmes that should leave some other hoteliers standing. More than £200 million is to be ploughed into the hotel business over the coming year and if that does not produce results, then Mr Robinson will want to know why.

At least £60 million of the money will go into the Posthouse chain, a flagging brand which will have to work hard to retrieve the loyalty of its target business traveller market. Travelodge, which has allowed rival Travel Inn to cruise past it, will also benefit from new money.

The future for hotels is all about brands, and Granada has accepted the need to invest in building them. The results should underline just what a steal the Forte group was.

#### Buffett plays another ace

When news broke last week that Warren Buffett might be edging out of equities and into bonds, a frisson of fear rippled through Wall Street and towards the London stock market.

The legendary investor might only be moving what for him is the trifling sum of \$2 billion, but Mr Buffett has earned a reputation for successful trend spotting.

Yesterday's surprise announcement that Salomon is giving up its independence to join with Travelers brought the Buffett seal of authenticity to another trend: the amalgamation of investment bankers. One might say that Mr Buffett

had been a trifle slow in spotting a movement that has already seen Merrill Lynch thunder into Smith New Court, a host of European organisations change the signs over doors in the Square Mile and even adventurous British banks buying up US houses.

But that would be to ignore the full range of Mr Buffett's skills, for he has waited to deal until what must be pretty much the top of the market. Other institutions that cannot make it on their own are unlikely to be able to beat the terms that Salomon has negotiated.

The combined bank becomes one of the top players in the international league — a truly global operation. Its ascendancy raises more questions over the future of the second liners in a world market that is eventually likely to be dominated by only a handful of investment banks.

#### Fashion victim?

SHAMI AHMED has demonstrated a shrewd business sense in building up his Joe Blogs brand, becoming one of the youngest millionaires in the country. He has created a clothing empire based on cheap casual wear and a clever name. So it is hard not to feel fearful for his decision to get involved with a woman most famous for designing lavish creations of silk and satin, and whose own dress sense is somewhat questionable.

## Shell Oil launches \$1.4bn bid for Texas company

BY CARL MORTISHED

**SHELL OIL**, the American arm of the Royal/Dutch Shell group, has launched a \$1.45 billion (£899 million) bid for Tejas Gas, a pipeline and gas storage company based in Texas.

The takeover, which is recommended by the Tejas Gas board, will increase the scale of Shell's extensive gas production and pipeline network in the southern states of America and the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, it will consolidate Shell's control of Coral Energy, one of the top five energy marketing businesses in the US.

Shell is paying \$61.50 for each Tejas share, compared with a market price of \$50,

and will be taking on \$900 million in debt and preference shares.

Tejas has been expanding rapidly with acquisitions, becoming one of the larger interstate gas pipeline and storage companies, with operations in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Tejas brings with it a 44 per cent stake in Coral Energy, a business established in 1995 with Shell Oil. In June, Shell Canada merged its gas marketing operation business with Coral and the Canadian Shell subsidiary acquired a 12 per cent interest in Coral.

Yesterday's deal gives Shell complete ownership of a business with total gas volumes of 6.9 billion cu ft per day, and in

the first quarter of this year, Coral marketed 2.2 million megawatts of electricity.

Together, Tejas and Shell will own 10,600 miles of interstate pipelines with an throughput capacity of 8 billion cu ft per day. They will also own gas reserves totalling 7.5 trillion cu ft.

Shell is making a significant push worldwide to extend its reach down the "gas chain" with pipeline and power generation projects. In the Gulf of Mexico, Shell Oil has invested heavily in deep water exploration over the past five years, finding huge oil and gas fields, but deregulation is increasing the competition for market share in the US, causing a margin squeeze among the

leading gas marketing companies.

Over the past three years, Tejas has increased earnings by 27 per cent and cash flow by 27 per cent through a series of leveraged acquisitions, making the company, which is based in Houston, a potential takeover target, in spite of its relatively heavy debt load; analysts said.

The deal was approved by the Tejas board, and insiders holding about 19 per cent of the company's stock have agreed to vote for the merger. Jay Precourt, Tejas chief executive, and Frederic Hamilton, chairman, will remain with the company.

Tempus, page 30

## Flotation of Energis stake confirmed

BY ERIC REGULY

THE National Grid confirmed yesterday that it will float a minority stake in Energis, its telecommunications subsidiary, by the end of the year. The offering is expected to value the company at about £1 billion.

The Grid probably will sell between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of Energis, and certainly no more than 49 per cent because it wants to retain control.

The initial public offering should raise more than £200 million in new money, which will be used to repay shareholder loans of about £230 million.

Energis was created in 1993 when the Grid spotted the opportunity to use its national electricity transmission network to launch a low-cost telecoms carriers. It did so by slinging high-capacity, fibre-optic cables underneath its electricity pylons. Energis has so far cost the Grid almost £600 million in infrastructure costs and operating losses.

Energis got off to a slow start, but is gaining customers rapidly as the demand from Internet service providers and media companies for high-capacity networks increases. The company expects to make its first operating profits this year, although it will be several years before it reports net profits.

When Energis appeared to be going nowhere, the Grid considered selling it outright or combining it with another telecoms operator. Now that its



Mike Grabiner, left, with Chris Hibbert, finance director

## Superscape recruits as loss deepens

Superscape, the software group that has seen its shares plunge from 778p to 56p over the past 12 months, saw its pre-tax losses deepen from £2.9 million to £6 million for the year ended July 31, on turnover of £3.1 million, down from £3.9 million.

Losses per share also深ened from 37.9p to 69.6p. No dividend will be paid. The company said it had recruited a new US sales team and repositioned itself as a supplier of interactive 3D products. Its 3D Internet browser will go on sale later this year. The shares rose 19p to 83p.

### Good start

Electronics Boutique, the video games group, bounced back into the black in the six months to July 31 with a £622,000 pre-tax profit (£3.2 million loss) on sales of £24.3 million to £42.8 million. Again there is no dividend. Earnings were 0.24p (1.25p loss).

### Spandex dips

Spandex, the supplier to the sign industry, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £4.5 million to £3.6 million on sales of £18 million (£17.9 million). Earnings were 6.9p (8.6p), though the half-year dividend rises from 1.1p to 1.2p. The shares rose from 255p to 262.5p.

### Brake deal

LucasVarity, the transatlantic engineering group, is to supply braking components to the new Mercedes A class small car, due to be launched in October. It would not reveal the value of the contract.

## Jongleur expands

JONGLEURS, the comedy club joint venture between Regent Inns and John Davey, who founded the concept in London 12 years ago, is to be rolled out nationwide (Dominic Walsh writes).

The original clubs in Battersea and Camden were recently joined by a third, in Bow, East London, and David Franks, managing director of Regent, said yesterday that further

"If perfection on the palate exists, this is it."

Jim Murray's Complete Book of Whisky, 1997

Ardbeg is now available at Oddbins and other discerning specialists.



ON BALANCE. THE FINEST MALT IN THE WORLD

## New chiefs named by Burton

BURTON has taken another step towards demerger with the appointment of three managing directors to run the high street clothing brands that will stay within the main group (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Andy King, current managing director of Burton Menswear, will handle the menswear brands. Steve Longdon, managing director of Top Shop/Top Man, will handle women's wear and Hilary Riva, managing director of Evans, will look after the specialty brands.

The multiples business has yet to be renamed.

Tempus, page 30

## Greenalls seeks healthier future

BY DOMINIC WALSH

GREENALLS GROUP, the pub and hotel operator, is to launch a chain of standalone health and fitness clubs as part of an attempt to stem City losses over the group's future.

Shares in Greenalls plunged 37.5p to 414p yesterday, their lowest level since early 1995, as the group issued a trading statement in which it admitted that its managed pubs estate was suffering from a slowdown in investment and dull trading in the Northwest.

Lord Daresbury, Greenalls chief executive, said the company had suffered from "taking a pause" in the wake of the acquisition of Boddington two years ago just as rival groups

were pumping millions into their estates.

Capital expenditure will rise from £175 million this year to £200 million next, and the group expects some of that money to go into the new chain of health and fitness clubs. Investment in its managed pubs division — yesterday's culprit — will be boosted by £20 million to £110 million.

In the wake of yesterday's profit warning, analysts took a scalpel to their profit forecasts.

Nigel Parson, of Chaterhouse Tilney, has shaved £4 million from this year's forecast to £155 million.

Tempus, page 28

## Avonmore Waterford warning

AVONMORE Waterford, the Irish dairy group forged by the merger earlier this month of two co-operatives, said yesterday that significant rationalisation costs and asset write-downs will hit results (Sarah Cunningham writes).

It intends to include all the one-off charges in the 1997 results "in as far as it is possible" and expects to see strong earnings growth in 1998.

In the half year ended July 5, Avonmore Foods' turnover rose to £164.72 million (£588 million), while pre-tax profit rose to £17 million (£13.1 million). Waterford Foods' pre-tax profits in the half year to June 30 fell to £17.82 million (£10.64 million) as turnover fell to £151.9 million (£540.4 million).

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Northern Rock leads the banking sector higher

SHARES of the Northern Rock soared to their highest level on the grey market, raising hopes of a bumper windfall for the building society's 820,000 members.

With less than a week to go before the start of official trading, IG Index, the City bookmaker, was quoting the price at 409p in the middle. Only last week, the opening price was being quoted at 388p. That compares with initial estimates by some brokers of just 360p a share.

Each Northern Rock member has been allocated 500 shares, which at last night's closing price were worth £2,045.

Brokers say the rising valuation has been prompted by a revival in demand for the banking sector generally during the past few days. Stock shortages have been blamed in exaggerating those gains. Yesterday, HSBC surged 651p to £20.07, Abbey National 171p to 899p, Lloyds TSB 91p to 773p, Royal Bank of Scotland 121p to 651p, Standard Chartered 15p to 8621p, and Bank of Scotland 10p to 472p.

The rest of the equity market recovered from a shaky start to close at its best of the day. A confident start to trading by government securities ahead of today's second auction was underpinned by an opening rise for the Dow Jones industrial average in New York. The FTSE 100 index finished 49.7 up at 5,072.2 as a total of 790 million shares changed hands.

Brokers say the proposed break-up of the London Underground could turn out to be good news for Railtrack, whose shares responded with a rise of 231p to 8901p.

GEC fell 4p to 387p despite the best efforts of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, which has produced a 50-page tome recommending the shares as a "buy".

The profit-takers moved in on National Grid as the price dropped 4p to 2821p after the company confirmed plans to float its Energis telecom business separately for £1 billion.

Granada, up 18p at 8641p, has made a favourable impression with brokers after playing host to them yesterday. ABN Amro Hoare Govett rates the shares a "buy" while UBS is thought to have increased its profit forecast. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull has set a target price



Lord Daresbury, of Greenalls, down 371p on a warning

for the shares of 890p. Earlier this week Granada concluded the sale of another business, bringing the total raised through disposals since it bought Forte to £1.4 billion.

The stock profit warning from Greenalls, where Lord Daresbury is chief executive, left the shares nursing a loss of 371p at 414p. The time it took to integrate the £500 million acquisition of Boddings-

tive to say. They will be looking at the integration of the Nordin & Peacock cash and carry business.

BAT Industries shrugged off the possibility of further court cases in Brazil following a successful action brought by one smoker. The shares rallied 101p to 535p.

Prudential Corporation has emerged as the principal buyer of a 5 per cent stake in Incepta Group, at 19.4p. It now holds 5.4 million shares, or 3.14 per cent, of the public relations firm headed by David Wright, the doyen of City PR. Incepta was steady at 201p.

Yet another bid approach lifted JLI Group 101p to 551p. This is the second time this year the group has been in talks about a possible bid.

Aquarius stood out with a jump of 141p to 1651p after Mark Bates, finance director, splashed out £164,500 on 100,000 shares at 1641p.

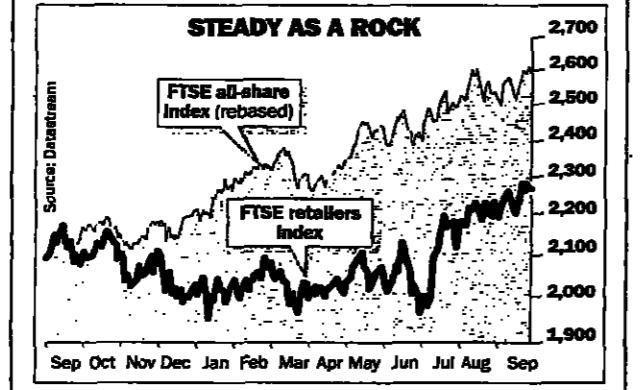
News of a bid approach failed to lift Arcadian International, which ended the session 4p cheaper at 611p. The hotel operator carries a price tag of almost £100 million.

Daiwa responded positively to the news late on Tuesday that it was seeking a listing for its shares in Hong Kong. Shares in the furnishings group closed 10p stronger at 1231p.

Brokers paying a visit to Booker, up 3p at 3071p, later today will be hoping the company has something posi-

tions allowed its competitors to steal ground on the pubs to hotels chain. It means profits in the second half are likely to be flat compared with last year. Brokers have downgraded their forecasts for the full year by £10 million to £151 million.

Brokers paying a visit to Booker, up 3p at 3071p, later today will be hoping the company has something posi-



it will be interesting to see results next week from Laura Ashley and Oasis," he said.

"As long as the weather stays okay we should see a strong run-up to Christmas. People are just starting to realise that. It will be interesting to see if the pattern of spending has spread from big ticket items into clothing," he added.

Those expected to benefit most are the likes of Dixons, up 161p at 630p, Kingfisher, 31p better at 797p, Burton Group up 5p at 1331p, and Carpetright, down 5p at 512p.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, does not think they will be disappointed. "The last couple of weeks have already seen momentum pick up. Alders was upbeat and

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P rice Waterhouse's ambitious but unimaginative plan to merge with Coopers & Lybrand was instantly panned. Workday business folk enjoy any chance for innocent merriment at the expense of accountants, much as policemen falling down holes or accidentally fallen uppers bring out the worst in those of us normally obliged to show respect. An attempt to create the world's biggest professional services group offers plenty of scope for malice before its fate is decided by the votes of 8,500 partners, the thumbs of regulators and the chequesbooks of clients.

How different has been the initial reception of another agreed financial services merger that aims to bring together America's Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers. The logic is plain. By putting together complementary businesses, it might create a new one capable of much more than either partner on its own. The lure of adding two and two to make five is so great that Wall Street seems happy to face the punishing pros-

pect of melding two firms with wildly different cultures.

The purpose of both mergers is ultimately the same: to create a world-scale firm with the clout to compete in any market and capable of tackling any task that its increasingly global clients are likely to throw at it. By being ahead of the game that its clients are playing, each seeks to gain a lasting commercial advantage.

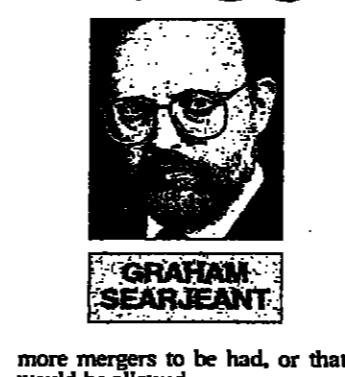
One reason for the contrasting responses is that Coopers and Price Waterhouse are remarkably similar. Putting the two together doubtless fills in geographical and personnel weaknesses. Its chief aim, however, is to make a new firm similar to the old ones but bigger, able to cut more costs, beef up information consultancy and deploy more resources to fast-growing markets in post-Communist economies.

The timing is also a little

suspicious, coming after a long boom. The last round of mergers, which cut the big eight to the big six by bringing together the smallest, came at the end of the 1980s.

Partners of Price Waterhouse, the most upmarket in its own collective mind, refused to dance that time. Now it is number six and has been feeling exposed, especially in America. If CLPW is born and the big six become five, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, then fifth, may well embrace Ernst & Young, then number four. After another economic cycle KPMG, by then the smallest of four, might look to fulfil the prophecy that there will only be three world accountancy firms in the next century.

Surely, the strategic thinking of the world's top financial advisers cannot be as silly as that. On this thinking the key is to get your merger in last, so that there are no



GRAHAM SEEAR-JEANT

more mergers to be had, or that would be allowed.

Many industries have fewer truly global competitors. Investment banking is one. But thereby hangs the essential difference. Consolidation among securities houses is building more top houses. Salomon Smith Barney would be one of those itching to challenge Goldman Sachs's profit-

able dominance in global equity issues. Five years hence there might be eight world-class firms instead of three or four today. This is a creative process of evolution that adds to choice.

Shrinking accountancy's big six just cuts competition. Except in countries with distinctive accounting systems, there is no buoyant second layer of big firms to fill the spaces left by mergers. The world firms, all Anglo-Saxon, have driven in our many medium-sized players, notably in English-speaking countries. The merger may be aimed at servicing a few key multinationals, but Coopers has about 5,000 audit customers in the UK alone. To compete, medium-sized firms have had to specialise: for instance in owner-managed firms, travel or show business.

The combined CLPW would audit 30 per cent of America's Fortune 500 top companies. In Britain, by historical accident, a bizarre situation would be created. CLPW would audit more than half the top hundred UK quoted companies. Realistically, such companies have only the other four to choose from. This is untenable. Competition authorities will surely insist on sharing that business around. Will UK partners vote for losing two in five of their top national clients? Possibly not.

Accountancy has become a complex monopoly because of the need to avoid conflicts of interest. In some deals, a potential client is lucky to have any choice of top accountant or solicitor. Another merger will make things worse. The UK authorities, directly or via Brussels, should be suspicious when fees are already far from modest.

The last thing we want is to stifle the development of accountancy, which is one of the UK's most competitive sectors. Firms should, however, look to other ways to achieve their ends. One or two could cede a lot of routine national business to concentrate on big clients, though none might be brave enough to do this first. They could grow by adding local firms where that is still possible, by franchising their brand names or by using local firms as feeders for their global services. There could be more effort to overcome barriers to combining with law firms and to amend the doctrine of joint and several liability, which leads to insolvent accountants suing other accountants for billions.

If capital is short, perhaps accountants should reconsider the partnership system more fundamentally. Short of converting to full company status, CL and PW might ponder that Goldman Sachs manages with fewer than 200 partners against their combined 8,500. Most of all, management consultants need to be more creative about their own affairs. Internal logic that fails foul of public realities is no logic at all.

## Five enormous piggies are too few

# Firm behind \$10m liar's poker is dealt a \$9bn safer hand

**Eric Reguly**  
tells the story  
of the bank  
that returned  
from the edge  
of failure

**T**he idea that Salomon Brothers would be one day be owned by an insurance company would have been laughable in the 1980s. Salomon was a fiercely independent operation, one that combined the raw energy and in-your-face aggression of Drexel, Burnham Lambert, Mike Milken's legendary shop, with the respectability of Morgan Stanley. The combination produced the most powerful trading machine that Wall Street had ever seen. It was home to the "Big Swinging Dicks", immortalised by *Liar's Poker*, Michael Lewis's book about Salomon's rise and its often brutal culture.

Now it is owned by Travelers Group, a somewhat genteel financial services giant best known for selling life, property and casualty insurance and annuities. The takeover, paid for in Travelers' shares, values Salomon at \$9 billion (£5.6 billion) and will vault Travelers, which also owns Smith Barney, a domestic American investment and brokerage firm, into the international financial big leagues.

In London alone, Salomon has 1,300 employees, equivalent to more than a fifth of its worldwide total, and Peter Middleton, the former monk who runs Salomon's European operations, has become one of the best-known bankers on the Continent.

Salomon lost much of its power and glamour in the early 1990s and its takeover began to seem inevitable. In the first half of the decade, it got clobbered by a US Treasuries auction scandal, deep losses in its energy unit and bond trading operations, and wave after wave of defections. While Warren Buffett, America's best-known investor, used his financial resources and business savvy to stabilise the firm, he failed to restore it to its former glory.

Globalisation and the effort



Warren Buffett invested heavily in Salomon as he nursed the firm back to health after a financial scandal

to create full-service securities firms were the forces that ended its independence. The big three — Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch — became bigger and more powerful in almost every area except fixed-income trading. A senior banker in Salomon's London office said: "We really didn't want to get taken over but we recognised that we were lagging behind in the race to create a full-service global bank. If we were going to be taken over by anyone, Travellers was the logical candidate."

Travelers' Smith Barney unit and Salomon appear to complement each other well. Smith Barney has virtually no presence outside the US; Salomon has considerable international reach, notably in Europe. Salomon has no retail distribution capabilities: Smith Barney does. Smith Barney has a strong presence in equities, municipal finance and asset management;

Salomon's strength is fixed-income trading. Although it is trying hard, Salomon is not considered a player in the equities market.

Sandy Weill, chairman and chief executive of Travelers, said: "The complementary strengths of these two organisations, combined with the impressive talent of the people on both sides, will create a financially powerful and formidable competitor in virtually every facet of the securities business, in any region of the world."

**T**he new group, to be called Salomon Smith Barney, will rank third in equity underwriting, second in US debt underwriting, first in municipal finance and fourth in mergers and acquisitions. The pro-forma balance sheet will have \$9 billion of equity, making it the second-largest securities firm by that measure, after Morgan Stanley.

The market reaction to the merger was immediately positive. IBCA, the London credit ratings agency, said the two firms were a natural fit and pointed out that the one area of concern "is the challenge the management will have in combining two firms with distinctly different cultures".

Indeed, Salomon is renowned for its risk-taking culture. Its greatest successes came from proprietary trading, the Wall Street argot for betting the ranch. Salomon was genetically programmed to gamble. *Liar's Poker* took its name from the high-stake betting game played by Salomon's traders. John Gutfreund, Salomon's chairman during its heyday in the 1980s, raised the stakes to absurd levels in 1986, the year when Salomon reached the height of its power and arrogance. In what has since become a legendary challenge, he approached John Meriwether, one of the firm's star

traders, and said: "One hand, one million dollars, no tears." Meriwether's response: "No, John... ten million dollars, no tears."

Salomon was founded in 1910 by Arthur, Herbert and Percy Salomon as a money brokerage firm. During the First World War, it became a US government securities dealer and specialised in bond trading. This formed the bulk of its business until the late 1970s, when Gutfreund became managing partner. His first big move was a merger with Philbro Corp, an international oil and commodities trader. In the 1980s, Salomon made a fortune in mortgage-backed securities, a market it dominated, and turned an army of young traders into instant millionaires.

The good times, of course, could not last forever. The mortgage market eventually went into the tank and Salomon suffered losses in the 1987 stock market crash. Salomon traders, and said: "One hand, one million dollars, no tears." Meriwether's response: "No, John... ten million dollars, no tears."

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withdrew from the municipal bond and commercial paper market and made the mistake of entering the leveraged buyout game. Two buyouts that it backed, Southland and Revo, became spectacular bankruptcies. But the worst was yet to come.

In 1991, there was talk that Salomon was manipulating US Treasury auctions, a tightly regulated market that does not allow any one player to buy more than 35 per cent of an issue. Salomon was exceeding the limit through unauthorised bids; bought 94 per cent of the May 1991 issue.

Complaints triggered a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation. Gutfreund resigned and Warren Buffett was installed as chairman to restore confidence. He appointed Robert Denham, a Texan who was one of his lawyers, and the British-born Deryck Maughan, as Salomon's top executives.

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway group became Salomon's biggest investor and Buffett sold assets to keep Salomon afloat during the Treasury crisis. His efforts allowed Salomon to pull through. The overhaul of a controversial bonus scheme, which had allowed top employees to earn more than \$20 million each when the firm was losing hundreds of millions, backfired. Morale sank and dozens of traders defected to rival firms. The resignations became so frequent that, by 1995, Salomon's very survival came into question.

**I**n the end, Maughan was forced to modify the compensation plan. Stability returned and markets were booming. The next year, 1996, became the second best in the company's history, with net income of \$617 million.

Salomon's return from near death, of course, only made it a more attractive merger partner. Its main strength was still fixed-income trading and this alone would not ensure its success in the global securities market. Smith Barney and Salomon together will be a formidable force, but their merger marks the end of an era. It is hard to imagine games of liar's poker being played on the trading floor of a group controlled by an insurance company.

## For Joe Bloggs it isn't only in the jeans

**Jon Ashworth** considers the ability of Shami Ahmed to seize the moment

**R**ichard Branson would approve. At 35, Shami Ahmed, the man behind the Joe Bloggs clothing label, has proved every bit as adept at seizing the marketing moment. He did it when Brian Lara hit 501 runs for Warwickshire, inviting a highly public spat with Lewis. Now he has hit the headlines again, stepping in to "save" Elizabeth Emanuel, as much a household name, thanks to the Royal Wedding, as Joe Bloggs is not.

For a self-made millionaire, Ahmed cuts a surprisingly low-key figure. All the potential is there — homes in Manchester and London, luxury cars — but Ahmed has largely succeeded in evading the gossip columnists. Born in Pakistan, he arrived in the UK in 1965 when his father, an engineer in the RAF, was posted to Lancashire.

Ahmed married in January, and says he is most likely to be found these days enjoying a quiet meal at Harry's Bar. Four years ago, he was more intent on grabbing headlines with products such as "the world's most expensive pair of jeans" — diamond-encrusted, and valued at more than £100,000.

**J**eans were just the beginning. Joe Bloggs has expanded to embrace toiletries, soft drinks, women's wear, children's wear, sunglasses and even compilation albums. The group of companies has sales of more than £50 million. As with Richard Branson's Virgin, the growth is driven by licensing deals, taking Joe Bloggs as far afield as Japan and America. In the past three years, Ahmed has diversified into UK property, investing through a vehicle called The Legendary Property Company.

One of Ahmed's most successful moves was backing Brian Lara at the height of his cricketing fame. His plans for a "501" series of jeans and T-shirts resulted in a heated clash with Lewis, which threatened legal action to protect their 501 label. Ahmed compromised by calling his label five hundred and one. The affair was later dismissed as a clever PR stunt. Buying Elizabeth Emanuel could prove his shrewdest move yet.

## Water works

**WHAT** is the difference between a managing director and a chief executive? I am none the wiser after asking Thames Water, which yesterday announced the promotion of Bill Alexander from the former to the latter. Sir Robert Clarke used to be non-executive chairman, but became an executive chairman, when the former chief executive, Mike Hoffmann, was turfed out 18 months ago. This meant they didn't need a chief executive, except that now they do.

**R**ight, you. Who's this Joe Bloggs then?



driver, schoolmistress, only used it to go to church on Sundays."

### Swiss roll

HUGELY puzzling why one largely unknown Swiss-Swedish engineer should keep winning plaudits as the most respected company in Europe. ABB Asea Brown Boveri. Have you heard of it? Thought not. Yet it has won top slot in the latest in a string of opinion polls among chief executives across Europe from the Financial Times and Price Waterhouse. Four times in a row now. Don't ask me why. The other consistent performer has been Nestlé, which I still associate with Ernest Saunders and the Third World baby milk scandals of

the 1970s. But the Swiss chocolate box has had to share second place this time with British Petroleum.

I ask my informant just why an obscure and, let's face it, dull company which splits its parentage, what is more, between the two dullest countries in Europe should keep winning.

"There's an element of continuity about this thing," he says cynically. "Once you have established yourself as a respected company..."

BST. The best present came from Manpower, the US recruitment consultant which Sharkey ran briefly after he joined Tony Berry's Blue Arrow. Berry sent Sharkey to Manpower's Milwaukee HQ with orders to "change the locks and fire anyone called Fromstein".

But Mitchell Fromstein, Manpower's boss, was made of sterner stuff.

He fought Berry and gained control of Blue Arrow, ousting both Berry and Sharkey. Manpower's present to Sharkey yesterday was a framed key with the legend: "The doors to Manpower are always open."

MARTIN WALLER



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for foreign firms

# Flying the flag and wooing the investors

**B**efore the General Election, *The Wall Street Journal* described the UK as "the most attractive country" for a foreign firm wanting a manufacturing presence in Europe.

Speaking at last week's launch of the East of England Investment Agency, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, was at pains to underline Labour's commitment to maintaining the UK's number one position in Europe for attracting investment.

The 1997 World Investment Report from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) highlights the success of the Invest in Britain Bureau, set up 20 years ago by a previous Labour government and now given enhanced status by coming under both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of Trade and Industry. UNCTAD shows foreign direct investment in the UK rising to \$8 billion and to \$9 billion in 1996 from the European Union as a whole.

We must pull together... as long as we all co-operate, devolution will have a positive effect'

Mrs Beckett stresses that "the UK can only benefit properly if we all pull together".

She added: "That means presenting a seamless picture to overseas companies of the advantages of investing in the UK, regardless of regional differences. As long as we all co-operate in this, devolution will have a positive effect."

It is clear in any case that major business moves, inward

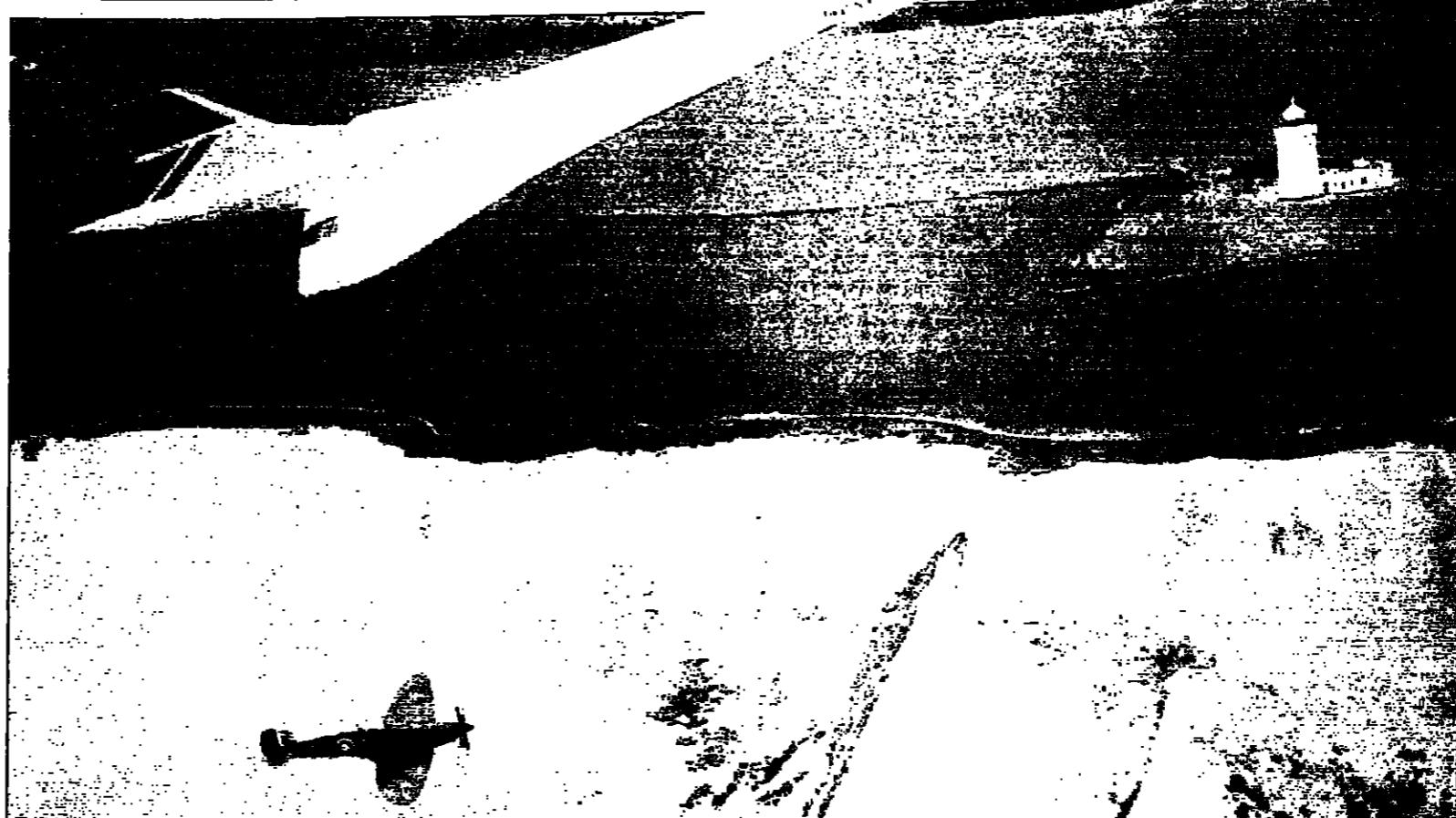
investment and domestic relocations are increasingly based on complex corporate and technical factors which override geographical and political boundaries.

A survey of 50 British and UK-based multinational companies shows that saving costs — for example, by moving to a cheaper region — is now way down the priority list as compared with increasing competition, globalisation of markets, business growth and changing technology.

"Multinationals no longer expand country by country," added Andrew Gould, a partner in international property consultants Jones Lang Wootton, who carried out the survey for one of the UK's largest commercial property owners.

"With all their operations now linked by information technology, they can look at Europe and select the most competitive location to carry out each function on a continental scale."

A good example is logistics, which would previously have favoured locations in, for ex-



Best of Britain: Concorde and a Spitfire fly over the white cliffs of Dover, which beckon overseas investors to set up businesses here

ample, a Benelux country. But US construction toy manufacturers K'Nex has taken advantage of the Channel Tunnel to base its European assembly plant at Ashford in Kent.

One of the largest growth areas involves call centres, expected to employ one million people in the UK by 2001 and one of the world's most site-flexible businesses thanks to advances in telecommunications.

London Electricity's calls are handled in Sunderland, Virgin Rail's in Edinburgh, Virgin Rail's in Edin-

burgh and Holiday Inns in Amsterdam. Language skills are obviously critical, and the UK scores thanks to its many resident ethnic groups.

International competition is also growing with the spread of English as a world communication medium, while traditional landmark headquarters buildings are not necessarily the answer as companies rely on "fewer but cleverer people". Gould said.

Theoretically these trends could free companies to locate themselves almost anywhere. But the fewer but cleverer employees are aware of their worth and capable of expressing preferences for living and working in attractive places — which could mean fresh demands for city-centre locations well equipped to house smaller and more cost-effective, but more intelligent, offices as well as for metropolitan living.

"Soft" issues of environment, consultation and com-

munications are proving increasingly vital in securing staff support. Meticulous planning underlies operations such as BT's decentralisation to strategically based M25 sites (for instance Stockley Park near Heathrow) and the Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive's recently formed relocation, moving more than 7,000 employees from 15 offices in London, the South Coast and Bath, to a purpose-built HQ at Abbey Wood, north of Bristol.

## Valleys move into top gear

### WALES

WALES' narrow "yes" vote in last week's referendum should not stifle inward investment, according to the Welsh Development Agency (WDA).

"Companies consider locations on a Europe-wide basis," said the agency's international director, Hilary Hendy. "They come across regional assemblies while undertaking site evaluations in continental Europe. So they will not be surprised to find a similar structure operating in Wales."

This financial year the WDA is on target to meet its goal of creating 8,000 jobs and attracting £400 million in capital investment.

The Japanese car component manufacturer Toyota and TRW of America have established a £10.7 million joint venture at Neath. The plant will create 200 jobs manufacturing pumps for steering systems.

Last month two more Japanese manufacturers came to Wales to supply inward investors resident in Britain. Yamaha and Yamada arrived within a week, and both chose to locate in Ebbw Vale.

The precision engineering firm Yajima is investing £6 million in a plant producing metal frames for Sony's television tubes, creating 70 jobs. Yamada (Wales's 54th Japanese-owned manufacturing business) is establishing a £3 million automotive components plant. Its 100 new staff will produce oil and water pumps for Honda.

Ebbw Vale and the Gwent

Valleys have also been successful in attracting American investment. The electrical connector manufacturer Aeromotive undertook a £1 million expansion in the town. And automotive components manufacturer Tenneco invested £12 million at its Tredegar plant, creating 100 new jobs in the process.

These investments indicate that the WDA is fulfilling the Government's objective of locating businesses away from the M4 corridor. Similarly in North Wales, the German companies Bos and FAUN have unveiled projects in Wrexham and Anglesey, which lie outside the A55 corridor.

Car components manufacturer Bos is undertaking a £10 million expansion at its Wrexham plant, creating 100 new jobs. FAUN has bought a local bin lorry manufacturing plant on Anglesey. After its £2.3 million investment, it has won a major contract to supply Hong Kong.

Most companies that have relocated or expanded in Wales this summer are in the automotive industry. This is a key sector and employs more than 15,000 people in almost 70 plants.

Another key sector is electronics. After netting LG last year, Wales is keen to attract another major player. Speculation is mounting that Taiwanese computer giant Acer will locate its European manufacturing plant in Wales, creating 1,000 jobs.

IOLA SMITH



President of Yamada with Peter Hain, Minister for Wales

## Peace equals prosperity

### NORTHERN IRELAND

THE prospects for peace in Northern Ireland, with the resumption of ceasefire and the start of all-party talks, have added to the healthy economic signs appearing in the Province. The signals are strong that the political and tribal divisions that have scarred Northern Ireland for so long are being treated with a most effective antidote: more jobs, a richer economy, and a future beyond the dole queue.

There is ample evidence that this optimism is based on more than illusory pie in the Antirun skies. Unemployment, which peaked at 17.2 per cent in October 1986, last month dropped to a 17-year low of 7.9 per cent. The present record number in employment has grown by nearly 7 per cent over the past five years, four times the overall UK growth rate. Northern Ireland's GDP has doubled that of the UK in real terms, manufacturing output rose by 19 per cent in the past five years and according to the Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland (IDB), the forecast is that employment and population will both rise faster than any other of the UK's 11 regions. That would make Northern Ireland the second fastest expanding region in Britain.



Barry Gilligan on top of Belfast's Hilton Hotel  
Even the small business sector experienced a 37 per cent upturn in sales during the second half of last year, says the IDB. Its list of economic success stories is long, with the prospect of more to come, particularly in high technology. BT's £9.1 million investment in a telemarketing centre in southwest Belfast offers training for the young unemployed.

RONALD FAUX

## A prescription for success

### SCOTLAND

A WARNING that Scotland could face the same problems as Thailand if it relies on the job-intensive "assembly straitjacket" has been swiftly followed by announcements of further blue-chip investments along the border.

Scotland has excelled itself in the quality of inward investment, yet Robert Crawford, now on secondment to the World Bank from Scottish Enterprise, has been spreading a cautionary message.

"Scotland's recent economic advances will only be maintained if we move from a dependency on comparative advantage, such as a well-educated, relatively inexpensive labour pool, to one where the latter may not actually be putting the products together, but is designing, marketing and controlling their distribution," he said.

The two developments that should please Crawford are in the field of call centres and drugs. Scotland has pioneered the development of call centres in the UK. More than 100 centres employ 10,000 people, and this year First Direct, BT, Midland Bank, Tesco and Thomas Cook have plans for new centres.

Now a second generation of specialised centres is

emerging. The latest, Tele-tech, an American company, takes on technical support for hi-tech companies, involving skilled workers and employment for graduates. Up to 800 people could be employed at a centre planned for the Glasgow area.

The availability of highly qualified chemistry graduates has also been a factor in the decision of the Dutch pharmaceutical company, Organon, to set up a £16 million research development, bringing 60 new jobs to its centre in Lanarkshire. All its depression and psychosis research will be carried out there. Sam Galbraith, the Health Minister, said the jobs were evidence that inward investment in Scotland did not rely on simple "screwdriver" operations.

Scotland now claims to be the semi-conductor capital of Europe, with 13 per cent of its output and employing 8,000 people. The jewel in the crown is the £2.4 billion development of two plants in Dunfermline by Hyundai, which will create up to 2,000 jobs and a further 1,600 in construction. It is Europe's largest inward investment.

The Japanese company

Nikon has also opened the

UK's first semi-conductor

education and application

centre at Livingston, providing

training for companies in

Scotland and around the

world. Shigeo Ono, chair-

man of Nikon Corporation,

told Brian Smith, the Scottish

Office Industry Minister:

"The benefits of this new

centre will be considerable as

the engineers who complete

their training here will re-

ceive instruction in cutting

edge technology."

ALAN JENKINS

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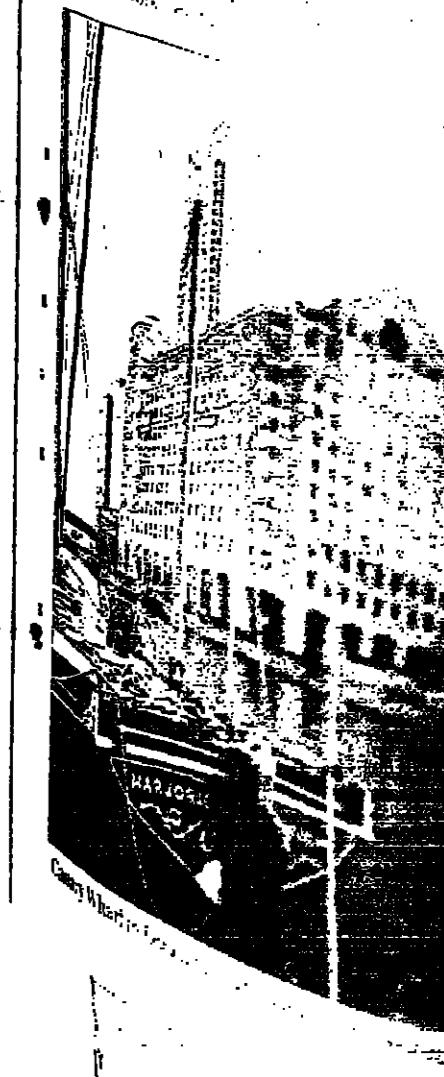
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Brian Smith, left, and Shigeo Ono at the centre's opening



THE TIMES  
Full S

City gateway  
to the  
single market

GOVERNMENT  
gives £1.5 billion  
for the motorways  
and a rail link  
and a road  
agency  
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# Full steam ahead for new jobs for old

In Cornwall, workers at the old 200-year-old Redruth Brewery are making Yixing, rice-based Chinese lager under licence and are planning to export it to China.

In York the historic railway carriageworks, which closed in 1995, will soon be employing 300 people making 2,500 freight wagons for the European market for the Chicago-based Thrall Car. In the spring, Hitachi announced a new company, based at Bolton, to provide practical solutions to Europe's tough exhaust regulations.

From beer to biochemicals, from motorcars to microchips, investment from overseas firms is booming in England and is set to outstrip even last year's record levels when foreign firms accounted for at least £5 billion in capital investment. In the first six months of this year, England gained 315 of the 426 UK inward investment projects, according to management consultants Ernst & Young.

The attractions include relatively low labour costs, combined with an improved productivity record and a "flexible" labour force. Language is also an important attraction. "Cultural factors have played a role in attracting American and Japanese investors, who have a greater affinity with the UK than with some of the continental countries," says Mr Rees.

England is particularly attractive for electronics, pharmaceuticals, the automobile industry, telecommunications and call centres and high-technology industry.

Many of the UK's 50 science parks are in England, with close links to universities. Mitsubishi Electric's decision to base its European research and development centre in England owed much to the presence of Surrey University.

## City gateway to the single market

### LONDON

GOVERNMENT plans to give London a sharper profile for the millennium, with an elected mayor and assembly and a regional development agency, look sure of backing next May, following devolution successes in Scotland and Wales. David Crawford writes.

The new central focus for strategic planning and economic development, regeneration and integrated transport is also seen as a potential business benefit. "We look to the mayor to be a supersalesman or salesman for London at home and abroad," says Patrick Kerr of London First Centre (LFC), the capital's inward investment agency.

Last month, LFC announced its 100th new arrival in the shape of the American call centre teleservice operation ITC Group, which has its first UK base in Harrow. With 70 per cent of completed projects hailing from North America, the common thread said centre chairman Sir Colin Marshall in welcoming ICT, is that "London is their professional gateway to the European single market".

Analysis of LFC results shows that more than half the 33 London boroughs have benefited from new investments secured and existing ones safeguarded. This has demonstrated the centre's ability to work beyond the

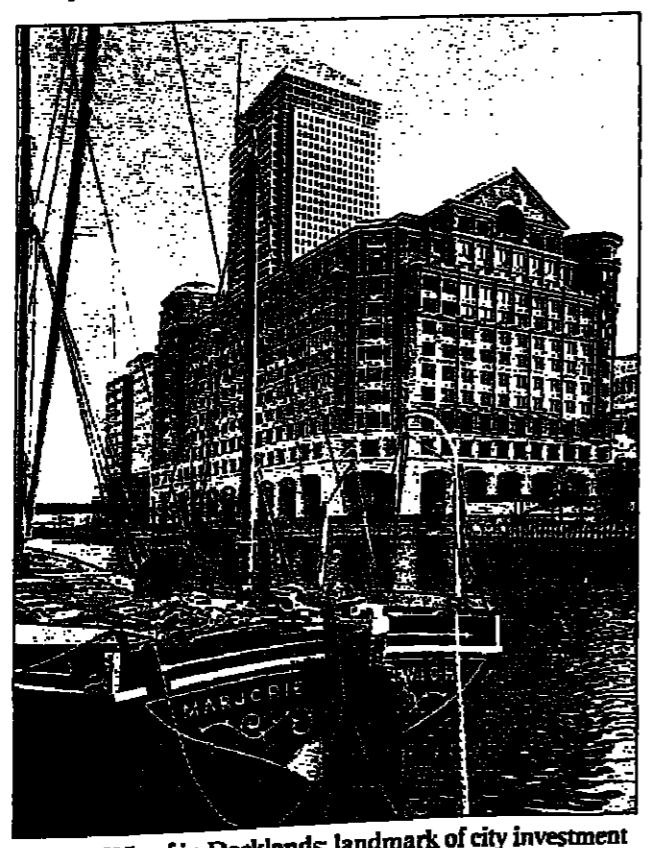
boundaries of its founding sponsors of Westminster, the City and Docklands.

Judith Mayhew, chair of the City Corporation's policy and resources committee, says: "Our strength is the clustering of primary financial markets and supporting professional services, which no other global centre can match."

The City is defending its role as a global financial centre with initiatives such as the Corporation of London Economic Development Unit, set up to implement its first-ever economic development strategy, and CENET. Formed in 1995, initially to target Central and Eastern Europe, CENET has now widened its remit to encourage financial practitioners from all the world's economic growth zones to open City offices.

With sites enjoying planning consent for a record 1.5 million square metres of offices, deputy City Surveyor Peter Bennett is confident that the City can accommodate new investors.

Docklands is one of several centres highlighting London's eastern corridor. The Thames Gateway Partnership is focusing attention along a line leading from the City to new economic nodes like Chatham Maritime and emphasising locations such as Thamesmead.



Canary Wharf in Docklands: landmark of city investment

### John Grigsby on the role culture plays in attracting investment

#### ENGLAND

where it is located. The Cambridge Science Park forms the nucleus of a cluster of 1,000 high technology firms in the area. Nigel Davis, managing director of Innovir, the US biochemical company, says that the firm was drawn to Cambridge "because of its proximity to cutting-edge science and technology".

The 19 English New Towns have played a significant part.

More than 1,300 overseas firms have moved there, and with 4,670 acres earmarked for employment use, the Commission for the New Towns is energetically marketing sites abroad. Milton Keynes, for example, has attracted more than 50 Japanese firms without offering financial inducements.

The success of Cambridge, as well as much of southern England, has been achieved without the help of regional investment agencies. The East of England Agency only started operating in April and South East Regional Investments Ltd became the last in the network of ten English regional agencies at the beginning of this month.

York set up an inward investment board, funded by the city council and business, which negotiated with Thrall Car in what Paul Murphy, chief executive of the board, regards as the most significant inward investment from the US this year. "Thrall Car's

arrival has given the city a tremendous boost."

Locate in Kent, another council-business partnership, has helped five French firms to cross the Channel this year, and has 340 overseas-owned companies employing 29,500 people.

One of its attractions is Kings Hill, a mixed development business park near West Malling, which has attracted ten overseas companies. Day Runner International and Magna Interior Systems have also sited their European headquarters there.

The Northern Development Company is regarded as one of the most successful of the regional organisations, attracting to the North East over the decade 520 projects with a capital value of more than £8.8 billion, including Nissan, Siemens, Samsung and Fujitsu.

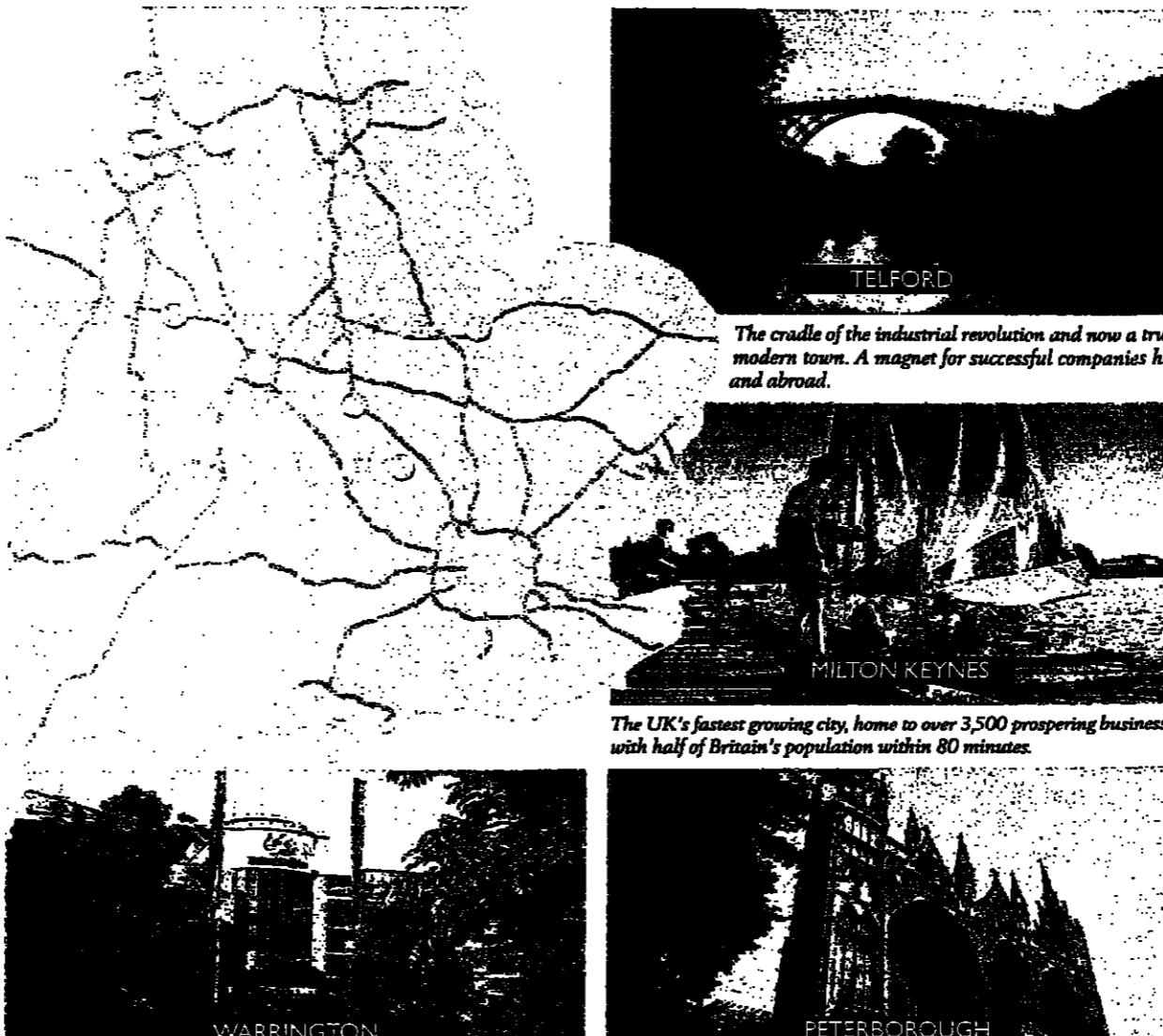
Ian Jones, deputy chief executive for Devon & Cornwall International, says: "When companies are coming from America and Europe, they look at the main centres of industry which are the Midlands, the North and around London. We have to work hard to persuade companies to look at our area."

"Once we get them here, they like what they see."



Tom Tutty, 67, a former rail worker at the York carriage works, celebrates the arrival of the Chicago-based Thrall Car at the old works site

# Business success means being in the right place at the right time.



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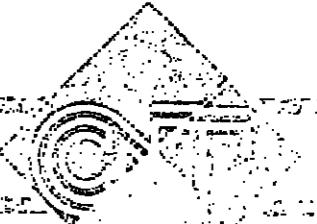
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

At the Toronto Film Festival, Geoff Brown watches the big distributors fight to sign up the youthful prizewinners

# Moguls tie up surprise packages

**L**ife can be hard for press and industry folk attending the Toronto International Film Festival. Before a screening you queue to sign in. You queue to get your cinema admission ticket. Then you queue to penetrate the auditorium, where the previous film is running over. The film you have come to see finally over, you may have to race up to a different venue – and perform the same ritual.

None of this stopped the throngs doing business at this year's festival, an essential event catching up on the state of world cinema, buying and selling, or simply schmoozing. More money changed hands at this year's festival – the 22nd – than at any other.

Thom Fitzgerald, a young filmmaker from Nova Scotia, found himself the toast of the town with his quirky first feature *The Hanging Garden*: everyone liked it, and MGM bought it for American distribution. Another new talent, Trey Parker, signed on the dotted line for a multi-picture distribution deal with October Films, all because of *Orgazmo*, a wild comedy about a Mormon actor who finds fame and chaos as a porno movie superhero.

The adult entertainment business also provided Toronto with its biggest discovery. Paul Thomas Anderson's *Boogie Nights*, a dynamic look at Los Angeles' porn scene in the late 1970s and 1980s. Anderson's previous feature, *Hard Eight* (due soon in Britain), never suggested a talent bold enough to mount a two-and-a-half hour epic teeming with characters, swirling with camera movements, crowded with volatile emotions.

We follow the fortunes of the film-making family of porn movie director Jack Horner (played by Burt Reynolds: his best role for a long time). An amiable lad (Mark Wahlberg) becomes his new star, Dirk Diggler by name. Dirk gets sucked into drugs and partying, and grows an enormous ego. Decline and fall follow; he becomes a hustler and petty crook, while Horner continues to deliver the goods into the age of video.



Vanessa Redgrave as Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dalloway, one of several adaptations of classic novels shown at Toronto

shaped with inappropriate tools. How can images, shot and cut in traditional ways, begin to penetrate the inner thoughts of a Virginia Woolf heroine? Only good comes from Vanessa Redgrave playing Mrs Dalloway, an MP's

wife who muses on times past and missed opportunities; but we still stand outside the drama for a long time.

Films like these made Michael Haneke's *The Castle*, from Austria, all the more distinctive. The usual glue and stuffing of literary cinema is

removed. Where Welles went into baroque overdrive adapting Kafka in *The Trial*, Haneke goes for Brechtian distancing. The camera stays level, the tone flat, the scenes bluntly curtailed by black frames. By refusing to underline K's struggle to perform his

work as castle surveyor, Haneke makes the absurdities seem extra chilling.

Luckily, other film-makers stayed away from famous books and wrote original scripts; you would expect nothing less from Hal Hartley or John Sayles. Hartley's *Henry*

Fool stretches thin material beyond sensible limits, although the director at least breaks ground by going all whimsical and reaching beyond his usual constituents. The title belongs to an egocentric ex-convict who shakes up life in a drab New Jersey suburb, and helps to turn a taciturn garbage man into a controversial poet. Carefully modulated performances, terse and crazy dialogue provide pleasure and, if the film helps Hartley to break out of his enclosed world, maybe the dull spots are worth suffering.

Sayles' new film, *Me With Guns*, is typically adventurous, who else would ignore commercial dictates and take the time and patience to fashion a Spanish-language film probing the Latin American experience? Two American tourists fil through to mainly comic effect. But Sayles' focus stays tight on Federico Luppi's Fuentes, a doctor trying to trace his medical students in the remote jungles of an unspecified country where human rights are routinely violated. The film is brave and intelligent, although it remains the kind of film easier to admire than enjoy.

**A**nd where was Canada itself in all this hoopla? Winnipeg eccentric Guy Maddin disappointed fans with *The Twilight of the Ice Nymphs*, a less than hypnotic trip to his patented realm of mythic twaddle, with a cast including Shelley Duvall and numerous ostriches decorated with ribbons. Gary Burns, documentarian of Canadian slackers, made a small impact with *Kitchen Party*.

But it was Fitzgerald's *The Hanging Garden* that buttonholed most observers: it won the Air Canada People's Choice Award, voted for by audiences. Fitzgerald's shooting manner is not the most elegant: he rams the camera too close to his actors and does not let images breathe. His material, though, is fresh and personal. Past and present, fact and fantasy, interweave.

An overweight teenager, oppressed at home, appears to hang himself, but returns for his sister's wedding as a slim, gay man of 25. Exuberantly styled, drenched with floral imagery and pounding music, this is the kind of film that renews one's faith not only in life, but also in film festivals.

## NEW ON VIDEO

**THE ENGLISH PATIENT**  
*Buena Vista, 15, 1996*  
WILL repeated home viewings reveal extra subtleties to Anthony Minghella's Oscar-laden adaptation of Michael Ondrasik's complex novel of love, loyalty and national identity among the shifting sands of the Second World War? I suspect not. Geoff Brown writes, but it will certainly cramp the epic landscapes of desert sculpted by sun and shadow. Ralph Fiennes is aloof as the "English" patient charred in the war, who earlier conceived a grand passion for Kristin Scott Thomas's reckless aristocrat.

**ANGEL OF VENGEANCE**  
*Warner, 18, 1991*  
THE second film of Abel Ferrara, bad boy of American cinema, follows the footstep of a mousy, dumb seamstress once she is mugged and raped. Her next attacker is slain with an iron and chopped into pieces. She then uses his gun to take aim at any threatening male. Ferrara's dark humour and sharp eye uplift an exploitation movie into something unsettling and stylish. Part of a new series called "Maverick Directors", and a video premiere.

**BLOOD AND WINE**  
*Fox Guild, 18, 1996*  
WINE merchant Jack Nicholson enlists Michael Caine's wheezing safecracker to steal a client's necklace. Director Bob Rafelson lavishes attention on the texture of scenes and the light they shine on tortured relationships. Result: a potboiler with pretensions. Available to rent.

**MAMMA ROMA**  
*Courtesy, 15, 1962*  
MAMMA mia, it's Anna Magnani, one of Italy's most overwhelming actresses, who almost sets fire to the screen as the prostitute who strives to escape from her pimp. Pasolini's second film has rough edges and spoonfuls of melodrama, but the director's sensitivity to social texture and the splendours and miseries of ordinary life still make it a compelling experience.

**PORTRAIT OF A LADY**  
*PolyGram, 12, 1996*  
JANE CAMPION'S stylised adaptation of Henry James's novel, with Nicole Kidman tightly controlled as the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe with a dilettante artist (John Malkovich), all quirks flying. The film seems frozen in focus and feeling, admiring from its audience. Available to rent.

# The search for critical mass

As Coopers and Price Waterhouse prepare for merger, Nick Land forecasts a period of uncertainty

**A**fter the announcement of the proposed Coopers & Lybrand-Price Waterhouse merger one thing is certain and that is that the world's airlines will prosper as members of the international management groups of each of the Big Six travel around the world discussing the main questions: will this merger go through; will the partners or regulators seek to stop it; will other mergers be attempted; will the regulators allow them and what should be each firm's individual response?

There has been pressure on all of us to meet increasing demands from multinational clients, many of whom are managing their businesses on a more global basis and are thus looking to the Big Six for an increasingly global service. Against this background all of the Big Six have areas in the world of service and industry sectors where they would like to be stronger. The C&L/PW merger is being driven by a wish to strengthen their practices in areas where they believe they are relatively weak and to some extent to spread the rising cost of investment.

Of course, size isn't everything. The ability to provide an excellent and seamless service



Firms are changing to meet global demands, says Nick Land

developing service capability. If not handled skilfully and with determination a merger can take up a lot of management time. It leads inevitably to a period of introspection that can result in the market moving on and competitors

overtaking. Then there are hurdles to clear. Will this merger be allowed by the regulators, not only here but also in other places such as the US, the EU, Canada and Australia? In the UK the combined firm would audit around 50

per cent of the FTSE 100 and 40 per cent of the FTSE 350. Consideration needs to be given to the public interest. The merger could lead to a drop in choice and to major conflicts of interest, particularly in corporate finance and insolvency. Would another merger and further market concentration be allowed?

Mergers have to be agreed by the majority of partners around the world. There are great strengths in the partnership structure which is peculiarly suited to professional service organisations such as ours but, in major matters such as mergers, the partners as working shareholders will have to be convinced that is a good thing. And the position will be very different in each country with inevitable clashes, leading to one or more national firms not joining the international merger.

No matter how good the fit in respect of service capabilities and geographical spread, the greatest challenge is making the cultures fit and blend as quickly as possible. This is the most uncomfortable phase and it can be hard to hang on to your star performers through this period.

The Big Six are going through a period of uncertainty during which the only thing we can be confident about is that the airlines will benefit.

Nick Land is senior partner at Ernst & Young.

# Well partners, it's all up to you now

DROP into any branch of Coopers & Lybrand and have a rifle through the brochures and leaflets on display. After a while you will find the one which, since the news of the proposed merger with Price Waterhouse broke, is the key booklet. It is called *Merger Integration Delivering the Benefits*. And presumably Coopers staff, who probably never saw the brochure in reception a second glance, have been avidly reading it over the past week to see what lies ahead.

The first paragraph does not inspire confidence. "Mergers and acquisitions all too often fail to achieve business expectations," it says. "Research by Coopers & Lybrand suggests that as many as half of all such transactions are judged as failures by managers." Even if you discount the hype embedded in any document aimed at prospective clients, that does suggest that Coopers and Price Waterhouse have problems on their hands. The next section makes it worse. Under "management attitudes and culture" they quote a manager from their research. "The management culture was totally different," he said. "We take decisions quickly. They spend weeks in committees arguing over what should be done." That sounds very much like accountancy firms.

It is always surprising that

mergers are most often suggested by those companies or firms that are the worst managed. The last two decades of accountancy mergers are littered with cases where two appallingly managed firms have decided that things could only get better if they combined their lack of expertise and hoped that something might change.

That is not quite so true of

Coopers & Lybrand

but certainly the firms have developed an unfortunate reputation over the past few years of being two of the most poorly managed out of the UK Big Six firms. It is not obvious how the coming months are going to bring forth a tightly focused and dynamic force. This is complicated by the nature of partnerships.

Take a look at the central part of the Coopers merger booklet. This is headed "Understanding the Real Value Drivers". "In the thrill of doing the deal," it says, "it is easy to lose sight of the primary goal – increasing shareholder value. If the merged business is to be more than the sum of its parts then the two organisations need to leverage each other's capabilities to create added value."

ROBERT BRUCE

That sort of thing may work in a corporate environment. Shareholders are useful as an outside and motivating force with an easy benchmark in the share price. In partnerships the managers are the shareholders.

So it is small wonder that many finance directors produced an initial knee-jerk reaction to the merger proposal and argued that they would have less choice and the accountants were only doing it to protect their earnings. Well, of course, they want to protect their earnings. But they can only do that by offering greater efficiency and better service.

In theory what happens is that the megafirm produced by the merger could tackle the greatest and escalating cost facing any organisation in the professional services field. And that is information technology. There were hands thrown in the air that Price Waterhouse partners heard the news via their Lotus Notes system. The reason that the Coopers partners didn't suffer the same fate is that they are still struggling to create such a system. The costs

are phenomenal. But the savings and efficiencies are greater. The greatest final value to the merged firm would be that the ability of one firm of 8,500 partners to invest in such systems would be way beyond the two firms' current abilities.

This is also why the two firms are attempting to create a proper global structure and run the final firm that way. All the accounting firms have long argued in their client brochures that they are "truly global" and in the sense that they have offices in Timbuktu as well as Tokyo they are. But they are not structures. For example, the original plans for Price Waterhouse in the UK to

scuppered some years ago when the US firm, in response to some slight or other, refused to subscribe the cash requested. By going for a proper global structure from day one the new firm might avoid all the faults which are supposedly global capabilities.

But in the end it is all about new services. Audit is a tiny part of the firm's business world now. Arguments about competition based on audit reach are outdated. This proposed merger has two issues – the explosive growth of a huge range of professional services and whether partners will vote it through. It is, as the Coopers brochure concludes, about "mobilising teams to deliver the benefits".

## Driving force behind e-mails

ALL the hype being hurled around about the proposed merger between Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand stresses global communication. So spare a thought for the chairman and chief executive of Coopers in China. He is John Sturtard and is currently ensconced in a pink Rolls-Royce taking part in the Beijing to Paris Rally. The first he heard about the merger was over the fax as he rattled through Tibet. This

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

week he has got as far as Kathmandu. He is not a man to keep his views to himself. Coopers head office in London is now receiving e-mails aplenty from the dashboard of their man, temporarily, in Afghanistan.

### Source to tap

IF ACCOUNTING standard-setters round the world do get together there will be great cultural differences to iron

out. Neither of the UK-based bodies, the International Accounting Standards Committee nor the Accounting Standards Board, throws its meetings open to the public. But all this may be about to change. The US body, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, operates in open session. And it also provides phone links so that someone interested in hearing a debate on derivatives but who has to

### Brass tax

JUST as the chaos of self-assessment boils up to a rather artificial deadline of the end of

September the Chartered Institute of Taxation has pulled off a masterstroke. One of the problems faced by taxpayers who have never employed a tax adviser is that there is no easy way of judging whether the adviser advertising in the local paper is likely to come up to scratch. But as of this week it becomes easier. The institute received its Royal Charter in 1994 and this week the Privy Council has allowed members to call themselves Chartered Tax Advisers. It will look very good on a brass plate.

ROBERT BRUCE

WINNER WINNER

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THE TIMES THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1997

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ARTS FILM 35

Lady in the dark: Jodie Foster plunges into the unknown in *Contact*, Robert Zemeckis's journey through close encounters beyond the Milky Way

## Intelligent life in sci-fi?

We have seen so much science-fiction silliness up on the big screen that it comes as quite a shock to watch *Contact*. There she stands, Jodie Foster, trying to get funding to continue her surveillance of intelligent life in space. "The loneliness of humans," she says. "A profoundly impactful moment in the history of history." Big words, big thoughts. *Contact* is full of them, rather than the rinky-dink dialogue of comic strips. Images, too, are equally grand. The opening minutes take us on a dizzying tour of the cosmos. Planets shoot past, awesomely beautiful, as a sound collage embraces the 20th-century American experience, from rock music to the speeches of FDR.

Directed by Robert Zemeckis from the novel by Carl Sagan, *Contact* also boasts strong characters. We begin with Foster as a child: a star-gazing girl who loses her father when she is nine and begins a quest to understand the universe's mysteries. As an adult she is a force to reckon

**NEW MOVIES:** It's true, says Geoff Brown. *Contact* offers food for thought as well as intergalactic hokum

with: impassioned, obstinate, self-possessed, ready to spend day upon day waiting for satellites to pick up messages from outer space.

Finally one comes, from a distant star, Vega. Included in the transmission is a building kit for an intergalactic travel machine known as the Pod. Should Earth go ahead, and make contact? And who should be the one to journey into deep space to shake hands with the unknown? Jodie wants to go, of course, but Tom Skerritt, her former mentor, pushes his way forward. And how does America's military might react? James Woods is the National Security Advisor, and since the first image transmitted from Vega is of Hitler addressing the Berlin Olympics, he has good reason to be wary.

For over half the running time, Zemeckis explores all these questions with verve and wit, though there are warning

signs of hiccups ahead. One is Matthew McConaughey's character who serves, clumsily, as New Age religious spokesman and vague male romantic interest, something which Jodie has no use for. Another is the residue from *Forrest Gump*, Zemeckis's last movie: little bits of manipulation news footage bringing President Clinton into play. These make the film less believable, not more.

By the end, *Contact* has developed schizophrenia. Part of the movie means to be meaningful. Another part wants to play games and spin hokum, much of it linked to John Hurt's character, a bald eccentric billionaire.

Yet even if silliness becomes a factor after all, *Contact* is never dull or shoddy. Jodie Foster is excellent, perfectly cast, and special effects are smoothly integrated: outer space has rarely looked so lovely and alluring.

Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter*, based on the novel by Russell Banks, is another new release to bring cheer, though its subject matter scarcely makes for a "feel-good" movie. We are dealing with grief and a shattered community in British Columbia, which lost 14 children when the school bus plunged into a river. Into this tragic landscape comes a lawyer nursing his own demons, played by a tight-lipped Ian Holm. He urges the townspeople to sue the school or the bus company. But will this make the hurt go away or bring any nearer the "sweet hereafter" of the Negro spiritual?

The films of this Canadian maverick usually reveal a gifted director wrapped up in a claustrophobic degree in his own concerns: the technological invasion, the voyeuristic gaze, and the labyrinths of desire. But here the experience of adapting another's work appears to have liberated Egoyan. Though he pushes the narrative through some unnecessarily complex jumps in time — back to the tragedy, forward to Holm regaling a plane passenger with his sorrows — the emotional pull remains overwhelming.

Wintery images and mournful music cement the elegiac tone. Cameraman Paul Sarossy ensures there is a brooding beauty even when Holm navigates a carwash; and the wide screen is perfect to catch characters locked in their separate spaces, or express the agony of the bus ploughed into the river's white death.

If Egoyan's technique is simplified, the film's effect remains complex. No easy, sentimental answers are given to the messy business of grieving. Characters' behaviour cannot be easily pigeonholed. Holm appears both insidious and sympathetic. Even incest is treated without moral judgment: in a change from the novel, the relationship between a surviving teenage (Sarah Polley) and her father is viewed as benign, not threatening. In its refusal to soothe troubled waters *The Sweet Hereafter* is an unsettling film, and it lingers in your heart and mind.

Lingering is not Antonia Bird's style. The director of *Priest* and *Safe* aims for

**Contact**  
Warner West End, PG,  
150 mins  
*Sci-fi romp for the thinking audience*  
**The Sweet Hereafter**  
Curzon Mayfair, 15,  
110 mins  
*Atom Egoyan learns how to feel*  
**Face**  
Empire, 18, 100 mins  
*British thriller with more noise than substance*  
**The Leading Man**  
Warner West End, 15,  
96 mins  
*Jon Bon Jovi fails to please*

immediate impact. Look at *Face*, which marks her return to British material after the Hollywood folly of *Mad Love*. The presentation is rigorously stylised, with bleached flashbacks and forceful cutting. The soundtrack bombards you. The cast, too, does not stand on tiptoe, except perhaps for its most newsworthy name, Damon Albarn, Blur's lead singer, who appears briefly and harmlessly as a criminal gang's youngest recruit. The rest of the troupe are Robert Carlyle, Ray Winstone, Philip Davis and Steven Waddington: all good value.

Lack of energy, then, is not the problem. Lack of freshness is. Bird and her writer, Ronan Bennett, may try to make their film a report on the state of the nation: note Carlyle's activist background, the general election posters, and the script's ruminations on selfishness and greed. But this is mere fancy dressing, smeared over the usual business of thieves falling out, fighting over loot. Chunks, like the police station finale, are crisply exciting, but the whole seems not quite worth the noise and bustle.

Another pop luminary, Jon Bon Jovi, tries strutting his stuff in *The Leading Man*, made in England by the Australian John Duigan. Cultural conflicts are part of the theme: Bon Jovi's Hollywood star, acting in London, overplays his hand when he helps the dramatist's love life by wooing his wife. This old-fashioned concoction ambles along innocuously, but it wastes Duigan's *Felicity* star, Thandie Newton, and finds little useful employment for Bon Jovi's vacant good looks.

### SNAP VERDICT

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**■ CONTACT**  
Leslie Isaacs Thomas, 19: I found this movie extraordinary. Surely Hollywood has never been this brave before. Dominic Young, 18: Jodie Foster is outstanding in this arresting film.

Laura Brook, 19: Only in a few years will this movie be fully appreciated.

Eleanor Zeal, 18: Very deep stuff. Entertaining and educational in equal measure.

**■ FACE**  
Leslie Blair's Damon Albarn makes a competent acting debut in this violent thriller. Dominic: This is a British version of *Reservoir Dogs*.

Laura: I'm fed up with seeing such horrific violence on the big screen. Disturbing.

Eleanor: Steven Waddington's understated performance is the only light.

"An intelligent epic full of genuine wonder and excitement simply not to be missed."

★★★★★

Quentin Tarantino, SUNDAY MIRROR

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# CONTACT

PG

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ANGELA BASSETT ALAN SINNERTH CARL SAGAN ANDREW TAYLOR  
JOAN BRONFENBRENNER LINDA PESTER CLERI SHAW AND DREW KIRK  
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ROBERT ZEMECKIS STEVE STARBET ROBERT ZEMECKIS  
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## LONDON

**THE BOYS IN THE BAND** Revival of Mart Crowley's sordid gay play from 1969 where the guests at a Greenwich Village bachelor party reveal feelings ranging from desire to remorse. West, touching in its way a landmark. King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1816). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sun, 3pm.

## CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

**NETWORK TOUR** Zed Hussain, John McLaughlin and Steve Erwin tour the four corners of Shaka, the group which toured far and wide with its unique fusion of Indian classical music and Western jazz, come here tonight with a feast for acoustic music lovers. Joining them is the Indian lajju Hariprasad Chaurasia in a celebration of 50 years of Indian classical music. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 2429), 7.30pm. £6.

**DORIAN** New musical, based on the Oscar Wilde novel, with a bit added about the hero's childhood. Music and lyrics by the Australian Dave Reeves. New Victoria Theatre, New Victoria Street, WC2 (0171-636 3334/6362132). Previews tonight, Sat, 8pm. Opens Sep 28. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sun, 3pm. Until Oct 11. £12-£16.

## THE INVITATION

Tom Stoppard's play with John Wood as the sedentary A. E. Housman, careful to keep his love life private, unlike Oscar Wilde, who also appears. Paul Rys plays the young poet. Directed by Michael Grandage. The Old Vic, London SE1 (0171-928 2252). Preview from tonight, Sat, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sun, 3pm. Until Oct 11. £12-£16.

## ELSEWHERE

**BIRMINGHAM** Preview of Tuesday's concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra which seems

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Martin Hergle

**Mozart's Symphony No 38 with the many parts of Strauss's 'Tub' Enterspeel.** The evening concludes with the nightmarish Bluebeard's Castle. Berio's chilling expressions open. Sir Simon Rattle conducts. See review, page 31.

**WOLVERHAMPTON** First performance tonight of Out of the Blue, a visual and musical extravaganza set to break new boundaries in opera and

theatre. The show uses the harbour, the beach and the sea as its stage, with ships, helicopters and kites as props. It is devised by Pip Greatley, Colin Peacock and Garry Yarwood. Port, Wolverhampton, Sat, 7pm. £10-£12. Open 7.30pm. £10-£12.

**MOLD** Peter Shafrazi's Equus. Terry Hands's opening production as artistic director, with Frank Grimes playing Dylan and Cleon Ryan the troubled boy obsessed with horses.

**THEATRE CAFE** The new version of John, Gilbert and Sullivan's ever-relevant political satire about Mops and Mabel. Directed by David Aldridge, and the Queen of the Fairies with Richard Sturt and Alan West sharing the role of The Lord Chancellor. Fenton Gray directs. Alternating with Lehár's The Colonel of Lovelace, the company's second production for the 1997-98 Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street (01925 291212). Preview tonight, Sat, 8pm. Oct 1, 2, 3, 7.30pm. mat. Sat and Oct 1, 2.30pm. £12-£15. £10-£12. Open 7.30pm. £10-£12. £8-£10. Until October 11. £12-£15.

**LONDON GALLERIES** Anthony d'Offay: Reinhard Mucha (0171-498 4100); Chris Beetles (0171-498 4100); The Power House (0171-498 4100); Marlborough (0171-498 4100); Greenly (John Crookley and Venetia Jackson (0171-827 8328); ICA: Assessing Positions (0171-630 3647); Marlborough (0171-630 3647); Redfern (Richard Redfern) (0171-630 0644); The Photographers' Gallery (0171-305 0052).

**THE INVITATION** Tom Stoppard's play with John Wood as the sedentary A. E. Housman, careful to keep his love life private, unlike Oscar Wilde, who also appears. Paul Rys plays the young poet. Directed by Michael Grandage. The Old Vic, London SE1 (0171-928 2252). Preview from tonight, Sat, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sun, 3pm. Until Oct 11. £12-£16.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Disney's film comes into a hit Broadway musical. Alan Menken and Aladdin Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Donal Grainger and Norman Rossington. Donmar Warehouse, Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6080). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

**THE CENSOR** Alastair Galbraith, Alison Newman and Jon Pearson in Anthony Nelson's strong study of a deeply anxious film censor and his neurotic colleagues. Adapted staged from the original film (Amber) (Amberheads), Wye Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

**DISCO PIGS** Enda Walsh's award-winning Cork-set play where the music of the disco era part, but not all, play a part. Babyshock, part pub, part disco, to cops with us. Blush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-5090 5090). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

**AN ENCHANTED LAND** Ex-prostitute mother, virgin daughter and village woman caught in a single bed. Directed by Helen Joseph. Blatchley directs new play by Daze Whistler. Now playing at the stage version of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Royal Exchange, 101-103 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-741 2254). Tues-Sat, 8pm. Sun, 7.30pm. Until October 11. £12-£15.

**ENTER THE GUARDIAN** Musical version of Fannie Flagg's comedy of Vernese mothers where an actor and actress, perfectly matched onstage, live a very different life at home. With James Deen, Alexander Hanson and Neely Hanson. Music and lyrics by Craig

**Strease** The show uses the harbour, the beach and the sea as its stage, with ships, helicopters and kites as props. It is devised by Pip Greatley, Colin Peacock and Garry Yarwood. Port, Wolverhampton, Sat, 7pm. £10-£12. Open 7.30pm. £10-£12.

**THEATRE GUIDE** Jeremy Kington's assessment of theatre shooting in London

**House full, return available** **Some seats available** **Seats at all prices**

**Bohème and Manon** Adler. Directed by Jeremy Samuels. Donmar Warehouse, Earls Court Street, WC2 (0171-369 1722). Opens Sept 17. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**HURLYBURLY** West End transfer of the first UK cast of Peter Hall's Old Vic comedy. Directed by Alan Ayckbourn, showing how California men behaving very badly indeed. Wilson Mamet directs an excellent cast by Rupert Graves, David Troughton and others.

**THE WASP FACTORY** Successor to stage version of the cult novel by Ian Banks, adapted and directed by Malcolm Sutradhar. First seen at York's Playhouse. Tickets sold out. Box office 01904 630 000. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm. Sat, 2.30pm. Sun, 3pm. Until October 18. £12-£15.

**LONG RUNNERS**

**Grease** Cambridge (0171-484 5069); **One Day in the Life of a Family** (0171-484 5269); **Jesus Christ Superstar** (0171-484 5656); **Marie-Galante** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400); **Les Misérables** (0171-484 6006); **The Merchant of Venice** (0171-484 1443); **Olivier** (0171-484 5020); **The Phantom of the Opera** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400); **Smiley's People** (0171-339 5971); **Tickets** (0171-484 0031); **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

**CINEMA GUIDE** Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere (where indicated with the symbol +) on release across the country

**30/30** (0171-471 4134) Screen/Green (0171-722 5520)

**DEEP CRIMSON** (18) Crime and mortals skewer drama about lonely hearts murderers. Directed by Antonio Resines. Clapham Picture House (0171-998 3223); Metro (0171-437 0757).

**GALLIVANT** (15) Film-maker Alan Kitching journeys round Britain with his grandmother and daughter. An emotional, lyrical, joyous film. ICA (0171-430 3547) Everyone (0171-425 1525).

**MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING** (12) Julia Roberts does her best to top Demetruos' blunder of the ultra-intelligent romantic comedy, directed by P. F. Hogan. ABC/Channel Four (0171-635 5148); **Barbican** (0171-689 0991); **Clapham Picture House** (0171-998 3223); Metro (0171-437 0757).

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**DEEP CRIMSON</b**

# We'll rock till we roll over

**David Sinclair**  
sees the Rolling Stones launch their new world tour in Chicago

The return of the Rolling Stones, with a new album and tour, is an event which prompts — in the words of one of their own songs — mixed emotions. Among many pundits and middle-aged folk who have all but forgotten that they once had an enthusiasm for rock music, there is a chorus of weary disbelief. Surely they cannot still be peddling that same old renegade image, still pretending that they can compete with the new young bands of today. Who do they think they are kidding? But for the millions of people who still go out and buy their records and see their shows there is a feeling of immense warmth towards the Stones for their music, and admiration for their continuing vitality, in defiance of all rational expectations.

The latter mood was clearly prevalent on Tuesday among the 50,000-strong crowd which gathered in Soldier Field stadium in Chicago, on the opening night of the group's *Bridges to Babylon* tour, yet another gruelling itinerary of huge venues already stretching into February 1998 and tentatively scheduled to reach Britain next summer. "Either we'll die in the attempt or it'll be fantastic," Keith Richards predicted earlier in the month.

In the event the first outing turned out to be a competent if not altogether inspired presentation which focused squarely on the group's astounding legacy of hits. "It would be foolish to start the tour by playing half a set of new songs," Mick Jagger said when they were preparing the show pointing out that it takes a long time, particularly in America, for new songs to become familiar and also that the album itself is not released until next Monday.

Arriving on a stage decorated with silver drapes, two 18-foot-high gold figurines, a big circular video screen and golden honeycomb of speakers, the band started with *Satisfaction*, usually a number reserved for the encores, and followed on with a string of similarly ancient favourites including *It's Only Rock'n' Roll*, *Bitch*, *Let's Spend the Night Together* and the rarely played *19th Nervous Break-*

*down*. The only new songs were a rather shaky version of their current single, *Anybody Seen My Baby?*, and a splendidly dramatic *Out Of Control* during which Jagger twisted his extraordinarily skinny frame into a series of frantic contortions.

Visitors to the Stones website had earlier been invited to vote for one song to be included in the set and there was a huge cheer as Jagger accessed the site on the big screen to reveal the people's choice: *Under My Thumb*. Adopting a trick used in the past by U2, Bon Jovi and AC/DC, the band decamped to a tiny stage in the middle of the crowd for a "back to the roots" sequence of *Little Queenie*, *Let It Bleed* and *The Last Time*. They returned to the main stage for another broadside of old hits including *Start Me Up*, *Brown Sugar* and the inevitable *Jumping Jack Flash*.

There were the usual fireworks, inflatables, smoke bombs and a massive shower of confetti that engulfed most of the stadium during *You Can't Always Get What You Want*. But some of the performances sounded a little rusty and after the unprecedented splendour of the 1994-95 *Voodoo Lounge* tour there was a slight but persistent sense of retrenchment in the stage design and lighting departments. Even so, it was an entertainment which very few groups, of any age, could rival.

Still the vexed question remains: Do the Stones have any contemporary relevance or are they an anachronistic burlesque? If their live show relied heavily on past glories, their album, *Bridges to Babylon*, is a tremendous collection of new songs, some of them on a par with the best in their back catalogue. The opening track, *Flip the Switch*, is an absolute

but Jagger is equally reluctant to go on making records in the same way as the Stones always have done, insisting before recording began that: "We should think about the way the songs are written, the subject material, the noises, the grooves; anything to make sure it sounds a bit different from previous Stones albums." The result is a fine balance of mild innovation firmly rooted within a timeless rock'n'roll tradition.

Yes, the Stones have grown old. But although rich and successful beyond belief, there is still a calculated air of barbarism about them, and a delinquent energy which saves their music from turning into the drab middle-aged pop of contemporaries such as Rod Stewart and Paul McCartney. That they have failed to grow old "gracefully", let alone fade away quietly, may not fit in with certain preconceptions. But it is surely our great gain.



Mick Jagger sings to the Chicago crowd: "It was an entertainment which very few groups, of any age, could rival"

## Still top of the populists

THE Levellers are purveyors of doughty folk rock, bristling with political anger and bolstered by choruses of heroic defiance. It is a formula that has earned them little critical acclaim, but an army of fans.

The Levellers are, though, not just a band: they are an enterprise. They have invested their wealth in a community centre and studio in their home town of Brighton. This venture, like the Levellers' success generally, has rested on an astute mixture of political principle and populism.

This astuteness is also evident in the music. With *Mouth to Mouth*, their fifth and latest album, there are signs of a change of policy. The traditional sounds of the previous order are giving way to sampling, strings and pedal

### The Levellers

UEA, Norwich

steel. Like the Labour Party, Old Leveller is being ousted by New Leveller.

But while these competing pulls are very evident on record, their stage show remains largely unaffected. The Levellers continue to rely on the familiar line-up of guitars, bass, drums and violin, so that their dabbling with dance culture blends easily with their fiddle-happy hoe-downs. *Too Real* may begin with rumbling bass and paranoid squawks, but it is not long before a chirpy chorus is infiltrated into the mix. And it is those choruses that drive the show, especially on *15 Years, What a Beautiful Day and Celebrate*, their new single.

Nor are there any signs of the change of image. Lead singer Mark Chadwick still resembles Martin Shaw in *The Professionals*, bass player Jeremy Cunningham bounces and twists, his dreadlocks flailing wildly. The rest of the band — Jon Sevink on violin, Charlie Heather on drums and Simon Friend on guitar — seem equally averse to the temptation of designer labels.

The Levellers may not write classic tunes, or in Chadwick have the most powerful of singers, but they have the knack of selling a song and working a crowd in the old folk tradition.

JOHN STREET

### NEW CLASSICAL CD

■ EMI CENTENARY GALA AT GLYNDEBOURNE Various artists/LPO/Davis/Welser-Möst. EMI 5 56465 2 ★★ £15.99

WITH a little judicious tweaking and the diplomatic excision of the one dud item of the evening, EMI has made a very agreeable CD from its centenary evening at Glyndebourne last April, *John Higgins writes*.

Four sopranos carry off many of the top honours. Felicity Lott and Natalie Dessay show a nice sense of

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

sauviness. Lott goes for a man-mocking song from Messager's *l'Amour masqué* and Dessay for the equally wry *Glitter and Gay* from *Candide*. Alison Hagley is delicious as Narrenata from *Faust*, and Amanda Roocroft right back on form admiring the moon in Dvořák's *Rusalka*.

The male challenge is led by Thomas Hampson thumping with furious jealousy as Verdi's Ford, and Nicola Gedda taking Danilo off to Maxim's in *The Merry Widow*. A top contribution, too, from the LPO and its two conductors, Andrew Davis and Franz Welser-Möst.

\* Worth hearing  
\*\* Worth considering  
\*\*\* Worth buying

## Beginn in style

### CONCERTS

LSO/Davis  
Barbican

THE London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis began the season on excellent form with a glance back to one of the works they have played most frequently of late and a look towards future repertory.

Beethoven's Violin Concerto, which has showcased several soloists recently, brought Midori and the LSO together here, and Walton's First Symphony whetted the appetite for the excursions into English music that Davis is promising while also setting a standard for Walton and Vaughan Williams' concerts this autumn.

In the Beethoven bold playing from every department of the orchestra, supported sonorously by no fewer than ten cellos and ten basses, was matched by the soloist, Midori. Her tone is bright and silvery at the top, metallic lower down, and very distinctive because of her fearless attack; perhaps it was even too hard at times in the slow movement. She is a highly expressive musician who pays meticulous attention to dynamics, but there was nothing calculating about this perfor-

JOHN ALLISON

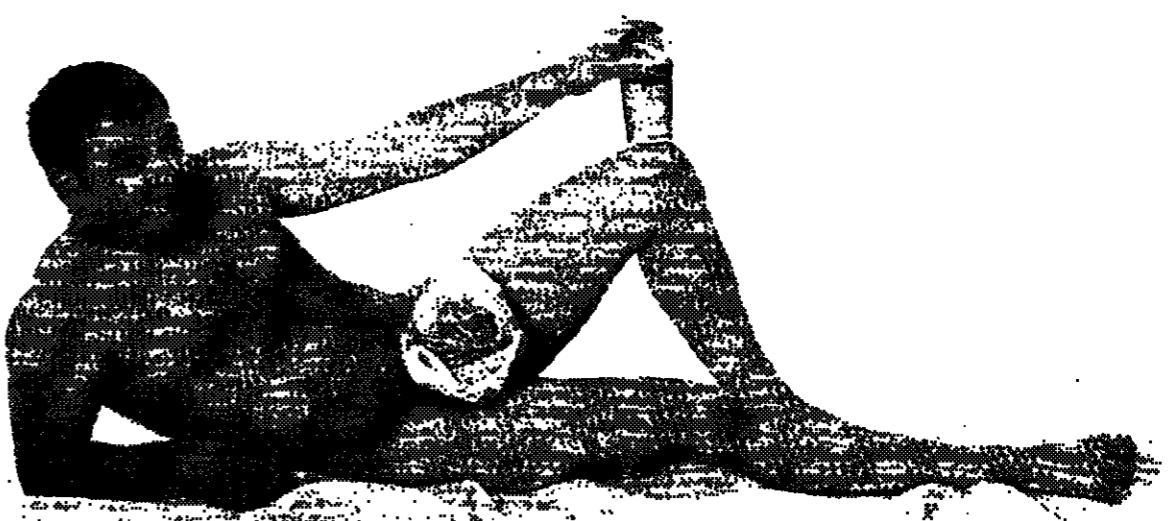
THERE are several good reasons for introducing *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* with a popular tone poem by Richard Strauss — not the least of them being that a concert performance of a one-act opera is scarcely likely to attract a full house to the new season in Symphony Hall. Another, even better reason is that without Strauss's example Bartók's score could not have achieved the pictorial brilliance which so aptly and so crucially illuminates the emotional gloom.

But with Strauss's *Don Juan* readily available as a not entirely jocular examination of a related theme, *Till Eulenspiegel* seemed an oddly insensitive choice: an irresistible invitation not to take things seriously. To preface that with Mozart's Prague Symphony, however beautifully played, was overloading the programme and adding to the incongruity.

Not that Sir Simon Rattle and his colleagues approached *Bluebeard* with anything less than seriousness. Indeed, they were serious enough to include the spoken prologue which

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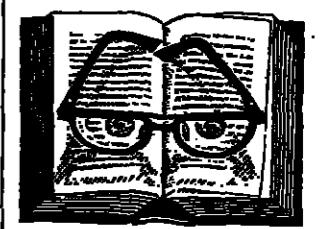
**MRS. BROWN**

IN THE WEST END & ACROSS THE COUNTRY

GERALD LARNER



## Wisdom of the fonts



BIBLIOMANE

WHAT are the commonest of human artefacts or works of art? I imagine that our most prolific creations are things we overlook as we look over them. In the room where I'm writing there must be a couple of billion of them, and they are what I am writing with, the atomic structure of literature: letters of the alphabet.

And yet, as David "Clear As" Crystal pointed out in his opening address to a typographers' congress at Reading University, surprisingly little has been done to classify letters across the world's languages and to investigate their workings. As he explained, linguistics has concentrated upon the structure of words and sentences, the sounds of speech (phonetics), and meanings (semantics); but there is no discipline of "graphemics" studying the marks we make.

This was a fine gauntlet to throw before a throng of people who will design, distort or rescue the forms of letters we shall be reading over the next 50 years. Which edition of a book we read affects our experience — that why people care about good printing — but how does it affect us? And what do companies achieve when they revamp their liveries? The typographic signature affects the facility and mood of our reading, but it is ever part of the meaning?

Yes. For instance, it can turn a statement into a joke, as was demonstrated by the laughter that met Crystal's slide.

### Modern Alarms

Few people can read a black-letter edition of Chaucer. Many are uncomfortable with the long-s that was used before 1800, reading it as "f". Yet when we modernise, we lose what I believe was a deliberate play by John Donne in his erotic poem "The Flea":

How little that which thou deny'st me is;  
It stuck'd me first, and now sucks thee...

**TYPGRAPHY** has consequences. In a talk about her husband, David Kindersley, Lida Cardozo said that his proposed lettering for motorway signs had been shown to be legible in smaller sizes than the face that was adopted — so his signs "would have blotted out less of the countryside".

**THE** conference ranged from a lecture on how early printers printed red initials, known as rubrication, to laptop demonstrations of Arabic and Japanese character-formation from a Qwerty keyboard. The cast included calligraphers, teachers, graphic designers (with lubricated hair or shoes), programmers, printers and book-sellers. There was even a Simplified Spelling cakewalk whose screens wud leev every old orther looking literat.

**THE** era of metal type is over, but a forum concentrated upon the handset metal originals of thousands of typefaces that exist in archives such as those of the Rochester Institute of Technology in America and the Plantin Museum in Antwerp. James Mosley of the St Bride Printing Library, near Fleet Street, spoke of the steel punches of a face such as Plantin as "the letters themselves". Whatever later typographers may do, these endure — like the meter rule in France which used to define what that measurement meant. There was talk of starting to catalogue these various holdings, so that they can help to inform future typographic design. It is always worth remembering that the handsomest of printed books, and some of the least dated, appeared in the 15th century.

JIM MCCUE



FRANK HERMANN

Kurt Vonnegut: writing with the half-embittered, half-amused voice of a latter-day Mark Twain

Malcolm Bradbury welcomes — with sorrow — the elegiac work that Kurt Vonnegut claims will be his last

# Why he writes so good

Kurt Vonnegut is unmistakably a Hoosier. A Hoosier is a person from Indiana, a region of hog-farms, old industrial cities, small towns with architect-protected courthouse squares. It's the state of Hoagy Carmichael and Cole Porter, the shot-down gangster John Dillinger, the socialist Eugene V. Debs, and the homegrown people's poet James Whitcomb Riley, whose most famous lines recorded that "it takes a heap o' livin' to make a house a home".

Indiana, like the Midwest in general, has always produced its homegrown sages; and Vonnegut is one. He may, in the great diaspora, have become, after due pains and difficulties (journalism, advertising, car sales), one of America's best-known and most bittersweet writers. He may have been hailed, in the Fifties, as among the most inventive and original writers of modern science fiction (*Player Piano*, *Cat's Cradle*), and in the Sixties as one of the most experimental of Post-Modernists — above all for his remarkable and classic novel *Slaughterhouse-Five*, a realistic fantasy that traffics between the firebombing of Dresden and the imaginary planet Tralfamadore.

Yet, unlike the more streetwise or more explicitly literary of his contemporaries, at no point did he ever lose his folksy, regional, Midwestern voice, nor what went with it: a taste for moral aphorism, the instincts of a preacher and a guru. His stories looked forward and galactically outward, but they also looked back; to the Indianapolis of childhood, to the great stock of German-American relatives that shapes his life (*Timequake* is a paean to the extended family), to the Mid-American simplicities that lay, once upon a time, beneath American scientific progress and the urban experience. Vonnegut has throughout been both a complex and an intensely simple, perhaps even a naive, writer; an explorer of grim futures whose voice was haunted by

cultural and autobiographical memory.

So, in his later years, Vonnegut has become a kind of Hoosier Mark Twain. Twain's late life depression was legendary, though, of course, there were always those flashes of humour, those flashes of hope. A deterministic fatalism threatened everything; tree will was gone, and the innocence of childhood choice and hope. The pure American and very democratic and demotic imagination reflected on misfortune, mortality, the waning of promise, the famous public writer reached out beyond the comic imagination to say life was a sick joke.

These too are Vonnegut's later

**TIMEQUAKE**  
By Kurt Vonnegut  
Cape, £15.99  
ISBN 0 224 02640 8

years. He introduces *Timequake* by explaining he writes it at the age of 73, and that it's born out of a failed novel, worked on over the past ten years, and called *Timequake One*. He's discarded it in disappointment: this is the filleted fish. He also announces it as the last book he will ever write. He confesses to its, his, dismay and depression: "I'm a monopolar depressive descended from monopolar depressives," he announces. "That's how come I write so good."

Everywhere there is the flavour of elegiac finale. The core tale is a conceit about a "timequake", a stalling of the progressive impetus of the Universe, which occurs in February 2001. Everyone is returned backwards one decade, to the year 1991, and then forced to repeat and relive every detail of their lives (or deaths) — until, in a repeated 2001, the world picks up where it left off, free will "kicks in again", and the present laws of human choice are restored. The conceit is lively enough, though it's more the flavour of a story than a

story, for *Timequake* is not a novel: it's a social and personal elegy, a work of nostalgia, a set of essay-like discourses, anecdotes, political observations, hung round the thread of this very filleted plot.

Kilgore Trout, Vonnegut's old alter ego, is here, as usual standing both outside and inside the story. As a wisdom-spouting old male bag-lady who deposits his unfinished or unpublished stories in a trash-can outside the now near-useless Academy of Arts and Letters, he's present to observe the new crisis of humanity — free will, of sorts, restored after a decade of automation. He's also there to give his reflections on it at the final clambake, with Vonnegut, his other half, the successful author and dispenser of advice, at his right hand, and with death near at hand.

The notes of elegy sound everywhere: over the dying of books, the losing of the sense of history, the fading of socialism and good democracy, over the deaths of so many (real) relatives, friends, former lovers, over the world as cursed murderous madhouse, over life as, in Trout's key phrase, "a crock of shit". Perhaps those who have departed are the better served. Perhaps those who turn to religion for consolation are wiser than darkened humanists like Vonnegut, exposed to the world as it is.

In the new *Bellow*, in the new *Mailer*, we have found ourselves suddenly exposed to the self-consciously late voice of some of our most important American writers. Vonnegut's is bittersweet wisdom turned very near to idiosyncracy. There's an urgency of retelling, a way, now, of using the intersection of fact and fiction not to show the great playgrounds of fiction, but to say what is left. Vonnegut has said a good deal of it before, and, in literary terms, often better. *Timequake* is random, and often far too anecdotal for its own good. But if it is a farewell, it's a moving one, not least because it rescues a ceremonial, perhaps even a reliquary, thrill of hope at the end.

## Remember the forgotten man

Two years ago I asked a group of first year undergraduates: "Who was PM before Mrs Thatcher?" Silence. Some faces showed incomprehension: a PM before Margaret Thatcher? Finally one of them muttered under his breath: Harold Wilson. I then asked them what the Winter of Discontent had been about. One of the youngest-looking said: "Unions wanting too much." Such is James Callaghan's obscurity and such remains the power of the Thatcherite history machine. Condemned by his own left wing as the classic machine politician, Callaghan's politics have been blamed by the Right for the decline of Britain. The challenge facing his official biographer is therefore substantial.

In 800 elegantly written pages Morgan meets this challenge and Morgan meets this challenge and

corrects an important imbalance in the literature on contemporary Britain. In the process Callaghan's flaws are revisited even as his virtues are given much-needed exposure.

Morgan portrays Callaghan as a moderniser constrained by his party. But there was a rigidity to his approach to politics that was founded not so much on a belief in a particular balance between the State and organised labour as on a faith in a mythologised sense of the moderation and fairness of the British. He found it difficult to cope with an age in which society changed and politics polarised. As

Home Secretary in the 1960s, his instincts were liberal on hanging, prison reform and children — indeed, Morgan sees a consistent idealism in his view of children, right through to his launch of the great education debate. But his response to the permissive society was to give warning that Roy Jenkins was being "too nice to those buggers".

The crunch in the conflict between his personal liberalism and his sense of the Labour movement's

social conservatism was immigration. Personally committed to tolerance, when the issue clashed with his view of the needs of the core Labour vote, he delivered the desired restrictions.

Morgan criticises and tries to understand: "Callaghan... felt that immigration was an issue to be handled in a way attuned to public opinion, rather than on the basis of abstract liberal theory." This is all well and good, but on hanging he was happy to follow the liberal

theory against public opinion. Morgan does not explain what was different about race. Perhaps there were more votes in immigration control than in hanging people?

Aside from the murkier corners of his career, Morgan convincingly shows Callaghan as a substantial and interesting political figure. He was at his best as PM, better at making executive decisions than at political intrigue — the best example of his management of Cabinet, indeed, a textbook case of how to get difficult policies through a hopelessly divided Cabinet, being his conduct of the 1976 IMF crisis. His executive ability made him a global

statesman of extraordinary standing and the key to his stature was, in Crossman's phrase, that he was rarely rattled. Until that is, the very end. His political skills deserted him when he made the decision, against much advice, to delay an election until after the winter of 1978-79.

Overall, this is a classic political life, critical, well-balanced, compellingly written: a traditional life and times treatment of a central figure of the age. No future group of undergraduates, or indeed, anyone interested in British politics since the war, will have any excuse for not knowing the name of old Labour's last Prime Minister.

**Brian Brivati's life of Hugh Gaitskell** will be published next month in paperback by Richard Cohen Books.

## Caught between error and terror



Death by misunderstanding? Bobby Sands's funeral, 1981

MY FIRST reaction on hearing about *Provost* was: "Oh, no. Not another book about the whole sordid business..." but I was won over by Peter Taylor's diligent research, sceptical eye and fine reporting. Quite simply, Taylor is no fool, takes nothing he is told for granted and does not fall into the trap of glamourising terror, even inadvertently, as so many others do.

After dealing briefly with the events which led to the partition of Ireland, Taylor moves quickly to the substance of the book — a history of the Provisional republican movement, which describes how a terrorist movement, virtually non-existent in 1969, was regenerated by the civil rights campaign of the late Sixties and the violent Unionist reaction to it and how it grew to command both support and ambivalence across a wide section of nationalist Ireland.

Taylor places much of the blame for the rise of the "Provost" on the stupidity of successive Stormont and British governments, but he understands that it was cock-up rather than conspiracy that dictated many of the errors of judgment made by British leaders.

Thus, dealing with "Bloody Sunday" in Londonderry in January 1972, when 13 civil

rights marchers were shot dead by British paratroopers, Taylor extensively researches and interviews participants from both sides and then says: "What happened on 'Bloody Sunday' was not... a conspiracy but an operation that went terribly and fatally wrong. Basically the officers, ser-

geants and corporals of One Para lost control of their men."

Anyone who has tried to look

with an open mind at the background to, and the events of, that day will find it difficult to come to any other conclusion. Taylor sustains that level of objectivity throughout the book.

I can also, in many cases, confirm the accuracy of Taylor's research. Throughout *Provost*, he refers to a long-term intermediary between the "Provost" and the British Government, whom he describes as the "Contact". When dealing with the IRA ceasefire of 1974-76, which led eventually to the demise of the then leadership, Taylor describes

there are, of course, weaknesses in this book. The present IRA chief of staff and his predecessor — who held the job for 13 years — are never even mentioned; and it is wrong to say that Gerry Adams ever had that position. But these are minor quibbles. Taylor's finishing lines are the most jaundiced of all. "At the conclusion of all my many detailed interviews with the 'Provost', I asked one final question: 'Is the 'war' over?' Very few of them said it was."

The words of the "Provost" should be well-heeded by the legions of wishful thinkers.

## The stories of his life

Amanda Craig

**BARNEY'S VERSION**  
By Mordecai Richler  
*Chatto & Windus*, £16.99  
ISBN 0 7011 6272 4

Richler is a comic writer who sprays his personality on his fiction like a torrent. The result is that either the characters all sound the same, or they fail to





## TENNIS

# Bjorkman serves notice that end is nigh for Becker

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

IT WAS not so much a homecoming as a rude awakening. Boris Becker, the city's favourite son, was routed without ceremony here yesterday as a summer of inactivity left him helpless to counter the fierce hitting of Jonas Bjorkman. In almost certainly his last appearance in the Compaq Grand Slam Cup, Becker departed tamely against an opponent supposedly jaded from his Davis Cup exploits for Sweden over the weekend.

Becker has been plagued by setbacks since he announced his withdrawal from the grand slam picture at Wimbledon in July. An injured ankle — coupled with the death of his manager, friend and the inspiration behind this tournament, Axel Meyer-Wolden — left Becker short of tournament play and, therefore, ill-prepared for competition this intense. He was duly humbled 6-3, 6-2 in as painful an hour as he can ever have experienced on court.

The lesson summarily served on Becker is that he has surely reached the end of the road. He spoke of a love for the game, a love for simply putting racket to ball. Despite his recognition that he can no longer compete at the big tournaments, there are millions who love Becker too much to see him humiliated.

His mind, as active as ever,

allowed him to reconcile this drubbing to circumstances alone. But the remnants of his once-dominant game lay shattered before him as Bjorkman reduced him to shredding his racket-strings on the net-post in frustration. Throughout the match, Bjorkman played the hound to his opponent's stag. Once he snared Becker's heel, he would not relinquish his grip.

This sad denouement seemed implausible when Becker advanced to a 3-1 lead. Suddenly, however, Bjorkman found the antidote to Becker's venomous service. A series of spiffy returns, coupled with unforced errors from Becker, saw the Swede reel off seven games in succession. Even Becker's self-remonstration lacked the passion of old.

Three times a Wimbledon winner, and still the youngest on record, Becker will play in Vienna and Hong Kong in the coming weeks before assessing his form. He also intends to play competitively in advance of Germany's Davis Cup tie in April — in which he hopes to represent his country.

On retiring completely, however, he appears as uncertain as are all great sportsmen unwilling to recognise their waning strength. He wants to give himself one last chance.

In contrast to Becker's declining powers, Patrick Rafter looks ready to scale the peaks. The US Open champion was full of invention as he brushed aside Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-2 in an entertaining match.

Bjorkman's opponent in the next round will be Pete Sampras. The world No 1 beat Felix Mantilla, of Spain, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 and Peter Korda led Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 5-3 when the latter retired with an injured ankle. Meanwhile, Greg Rusedski, who defeated Todd Woodbridge in three sets on Tuesday night, must wait until tomorrow before tackling Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarter-finals.

His victory lifted him above

ANDREW RICHARDSON, the 23-year-old Lincolnshire left-hander, yesterday moved up 38 places in the ATP tennis rankings to become Britain's No 3 player behind Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman.

Richardson is now ranked No 144 in the world after winning his first ATP Challenger title in Urbana, Illinois, last week.

His victory lifted him above

Chris Wilkinson, of Southampton, who is now ranked No 16, and Mark Petchey, of Essex, who is ranked No 158.

Sam Smith, 25, from Essex, retained her ranking of No 97 in the WTA women's rankings. Karen Cross, who defeated Todd Woodbridge in three sets on Tuesday night, must wait until tomorrow before tackling Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarter-finals.

**RICHARDSON moves up**

**Branson to take over London Broncos**

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

RICHARD BRANSON, the founder of the Virgin business empire, is to take a controlling interest in the London Broncos. An announcement will be made next week that he is to extend his 15 per cent shareholding in the club, which he bought last February.

Branson will acquire his increased stake from Barry Marantz, the Broncos' present owner, who is expected to remain on the club's board to work alongside Branson in developing the club, which has enjoyed its most successful season with a second place finish in the Stones Super League and bigger crowds at The Stoop Memorial Ground.

The takeover, which is expected to lead to an eventual flotation of the club, is due to be announced at Virgin's offices in London next Tuesday, five days before the Broncos' home quarter-final against Cremyll in the world club championship.

Stan Martin, the Whitehaven coach, faces a charge of bringing the game into disrepute after he was sent from the dugout by Steve Presley.

**Branson to take over London Broncos**

Ietcher takes  
jump-off to  
etain trophy

## RACING: TIGHTER CONTROLS FOR BOOKMAKING INDUSTRY PLANNED TO PROTECT PUNTERS

## Levy Board seeks ring of confidence

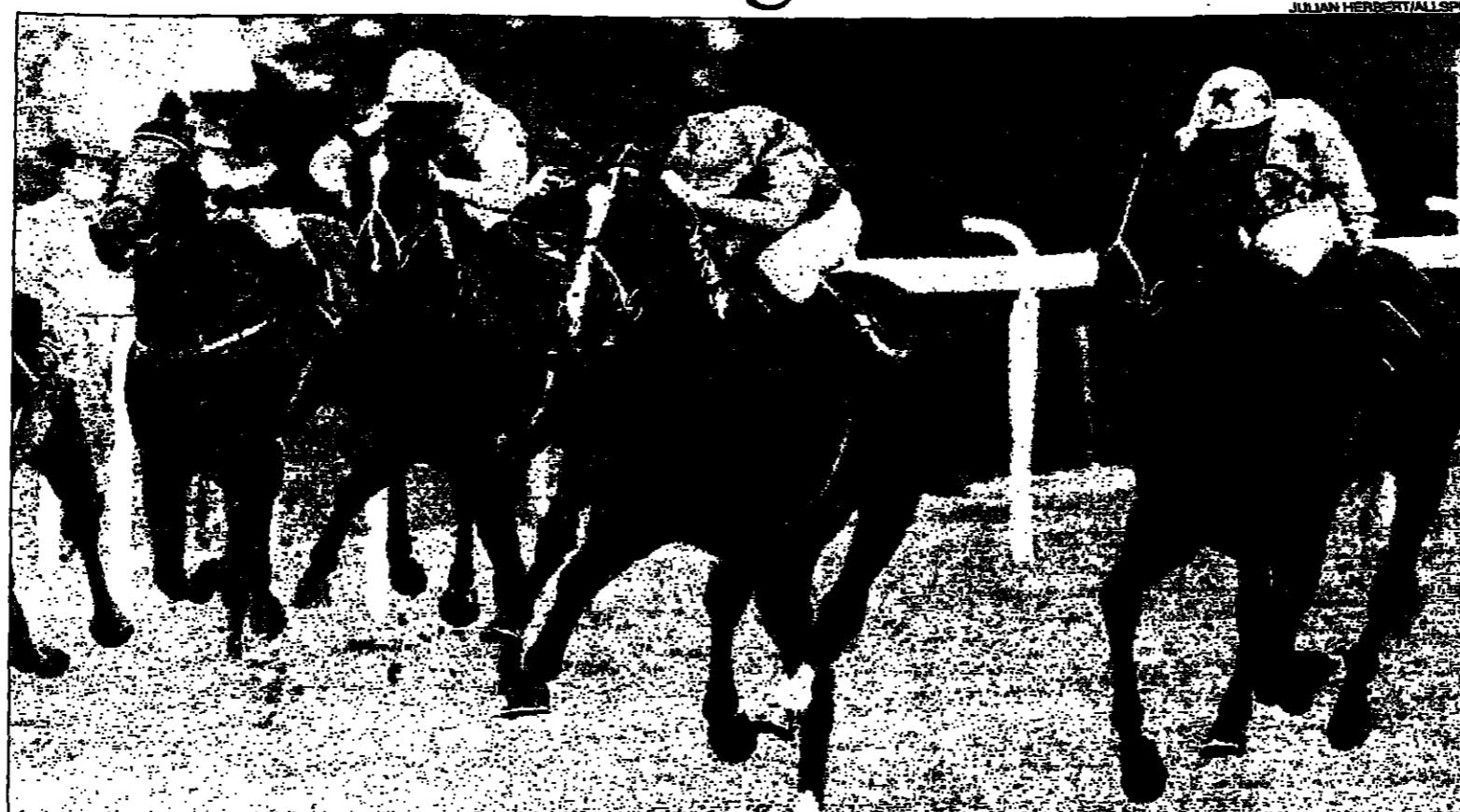
BY CHRIS MCGRATH

**T**HE whole of racing's complex funding system, which is constructed around a levy on betting turnover, rests upon one rather fragile premise — that punters enjoy confidence in the bookmaking industry. Yesterday the Horserace Betting Levy Board effectively conceded that punters will, too often, sooner associate the word 'confidence' in this context with the word 'tricks'.

The Board, which gathers and distributes the levy, is seeking tighter protection for punters from the sort of gamble they do not wish to take — with the integrity, or solvency, of their bookmakers. The Home Office is to be consulted

**RICHARD EVANS**

**Nap: CLOSE UP**  
(4.10 Pontefract)  
Next best: Georgia Venture  
(3.00 Goodwood)



Imshishway, right, heads for the Morris Hill Stakes at Newbury after landing the Scottish Equitable Auction Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

about more rigorous criteria for the issue and renewal of bookmakers' permits by magistrates, while Customs and Excise is to be urged to monitor betting duty payments more closely, seeking early indications of a business in difficulty.

Yesterday's intervention was prompted by the collapse of three minor bookmaking firms over recent months. While Rodney Brack, the Board's chief executive, was anxious to point out that the bulk of the industry is beyond reproach, it has clearly been recognised that such episodes soon prise the wheels off the levy production line.

The impact can be significant when things go wrong."

he said. "But I must emphasise the problem only relates to a very tiny proportion of the businesses. The betting industry, like any other, will inevitably include companies that fail for one reason or another. When they do, the customers are likely to suffer."

The Board — particularly its independent members, who are appointed to take account of punters' interests — is acutely conscious of the need to protect the integrity of the on-course bookmakers. Yes-

terday the Levy Board, again citing the effect on turnover of suspicions about integrity, impatiently threatened to arbitrate. After consulting its lawyers, it has discovered that bookmakers do not have an unconditional right to enter a betting ring. If agreement is not reached in two weeks, conditions will be imposed from above.

The punter's lot, of course, is sufficiently vexed at the best of times. There are adequate imponderables in every horse

such as why Oh Nellie, second in the 1,000 Guineas in the spring, has still to win a race this season. Nor will she today, in the Charlton Hunt Supreme Stakes, if Red Camella is in the same heart as when she last ran at Goodwood. That was last summer, when she ran away with the Prestige Stakes, but she has since been repeatedly thwarted by training setbacks. Today sees her first outing since a noble failure in the French 1,000 Guineas.

There is life enough left in the Flat season, then — and John Reid was yesterday pencilled in to ride Predappio in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on Sunday week — but many hearts will be stirred by Dorans Pride's successful return to steeplechasing at the Listowel Festival in Ireland yesterday. Third as a novice in last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup, Dorans Pride shrugged off top weight to win the Guinness Kells National under Richard Dunwoody.

**RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS**

**Chester**  
Going good.

2.00 (1) 10.11 SIENA (Candy Morris, 33-1). 2. Constant Attention (T. Quarn, 10-1). 3. Royal Ground (G Hind, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Five Fingers, French Connection, 8. Aman And I, 9.1. 10.11. 11.1. 12.1. 13.1. 14.1. Shababik, 15. Multi's Magic, 33. Black Young Man, 50. Far So-La. Pride Of Fawcett, 12. 13.1. 14.1. 15.1. 16.1. 17.1. 18.1. 19.1. 20.1. 21.1. 22.1. 23.1. 24.1. 25.1. 26.1. 27.1. 28.1. 29.1. 30.1. 31.1. 32.1. 33.1. 34.1. 35.1. 36.1. 37.1. 38.1. 39.1. 40.1. 41.1. 42.1. 43.1. 44.1. 45.1. 46.1. 47.1. 48.1. 49.1. 50.1. 51.1. 52.1. 53.1. 54.1. 55.1. 56.1. 57.1. 58.1. 59.1. 60.1. 61.1. 62.1. 63.1. 64.1. 65.1. 66.1. 67.1. 68.1. 69.1. 70.1. 71.1. 72.1. 73.1. 74.1. 75.1. 76.1. 77.1. 78.1. 79.1. 80.1. 81.1. 82.1. 83.1. 84.1. 85.1. 86.1. 87.1. 88.1. 89.1. 90.1. 91.1. 92.1. 93.1. 94.1. 95.1. 96.1. 97.1. 98.1. 99.1. 100.1. 101.1. 102.1. 103.1. 104.1. 105.1. 106.1. 107.1. 108.1. 109.1. 110.1. 111.1. 112.1. 113.1. 114.1. 115.1. 116.1. 117.1. 118.1. 119.1. 120.1. 121.1. 122.1. 123.1. 124.1. 125.1. 126.1. 127.1. 128.1. 129.1. 130.1. 131.1. 132.1. 133.1. 134.1. 135.1. 136.1. 137.1. 138.1. 139.1. 140.1. 141.1. 142.1. 143.1. 144.1. 145.1. 146.1. 147.1. 148.1. 149.1. 150.1. 151.1. 152.1. 153.1. 154.1. 155.1. 156.1. 157.1. 158.1. 159.1. 160.1. 161.1. 162.1. 163.1. 164.1. 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880.1. 881.1. 882.1. 883.1. 884.1. 885.1. 886.1. 887.1. 888.1. 889.1. 890.1. 891.1. 892.1.

GOLF: BALLESTEROS AND KITE ADOPT CONTRASTING APPROACHES ON EVE OF RYDER CUP OPENING CEREMONY

# Rivals hope practice will make perfect

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN VALDERRAMA

THE temperature dropped noticeably here yesterday. Clouds dotted the sky above the Costa del Sol, which according to signs all along the notorious Cadiz to Malaga road, is also named the Costa del Golf, and there was a distinct feeling that the time is drawing nigh for both the Europe and the United States teams in the Ryder Cup, which starts tomorrow.

"On the morning of the matches, I'll be pumped up," Tom Kite, the captain of the United States team, said. "I will be anxious to see how some of the pairings pan out, to see how good the guys are really playing. A lot of them look as if they are playing really well, but these are just practice rounds. We know that there is a big difference shot."

Kite has stressed two things to his men. "Enjoy yourselves," he has said repeatedly. "Tom has made this team come together," Davis Love III said. "We are as much a team as any team I have known. We are more relaxed. He told us 'to enjoy, work hard, have fun and do well.' He has been extra strict. He has stressed having fun."

Lore and Fred Couples defeated Woods and Phil Mickelson 2 and 1, and the two older Americans, who are such good friends, will surely play together at some time in the first two days, though Couples will have to brush up on his short game. Kite believes putting will be the key to victory. "The best putters will play the most," Kite has said.

By common consent, the outstanding putters among the Americans are Jim Furyk, Woods, Scott Hoch and Brad Faxon, who played with Justin Leonard against Lee Janzen and Jeff Maggert. Furyk and Tom Lehman were partners again, just as they had been when Lehman pocketed \$125 the previous day, and again Lehman and Furyk won, this time beating Mark O'Meara and Hoch by one hole.

This could turn into a putting contest," Love said. "If the wind blows, it could be decided on the greens. Phil, Brad, we've got to have them out there. They're the guys with the good steady short games that are going to pay off around here."

Couples needs to practice his putting. On the 15th, that stirring par three played from a tee that offers a view of Gibraltar to the west and across to Africa, Couples tried five or six times to hole an eight-foot putt. Long after Love, Woods and Mickelson had climbed to the 16th tee, Couples was still hunched over his ball, before he eventually sank the putt.

On the 18th, Couples did not need to putt. To a huge cheer, Love chipped in from off the green. As soon as the ball disappeared, Butch Harmon, Woods' coach, pulled some money from his pocket and gave it to Love and Couples.

Ballesteros meant none of these solecisms. He demonstrated precisely what he had in mind when he came upon Darren Clarke as the Ulsterman was struggling to get his ball out of a downhill lie in a bunker on the 9th.

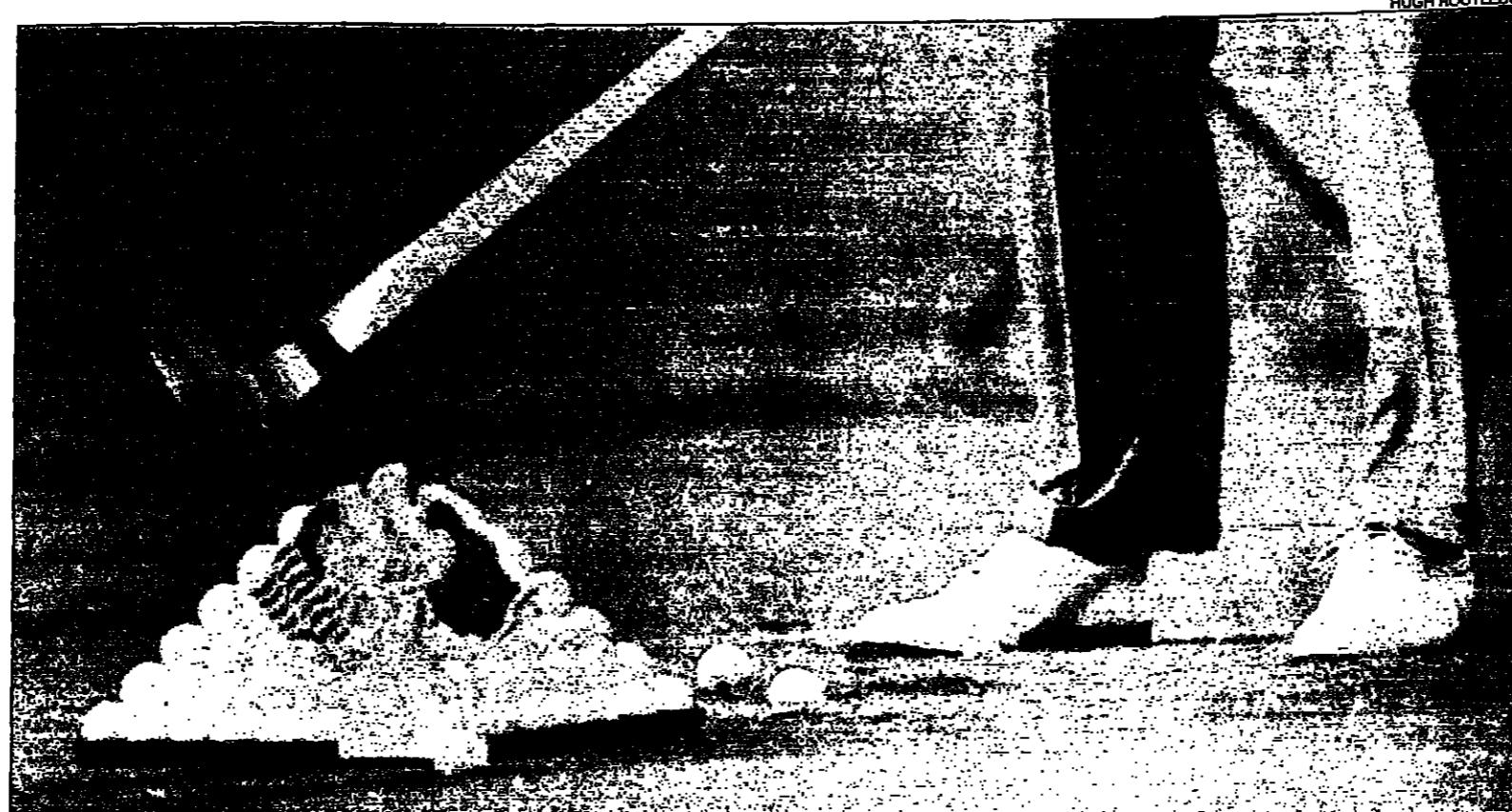
He was playing with his swing too short," Ballesteros, one of the greatest bunker players in the history of the game, said. "And his club, instead of continuing with the slope, was coming up, and so

defeat Ben Crenshaw and Curtis Strange. "You want to be a little nervous out there, but not out of control," the Swede acknowledged with a bashful smile yesterday morning. He knows, as well as anyone, the complexity of the mind games that decide winners of the Ryder Cup.

It is easy to fret, but far better to make a friend of fear. That sanitises stress, puts peer pressure into perspective.

The best thing about the Ryder Cup is you put yourself in the position to get scared to death about how you are going to perform," Tom Kite, the United States captain, insisted with the quiet desperation of a timeshare salesman from Montserrat. "People don't understand how wonderful that feeling is."

Hmm. According to Ian



The essential part that the practice ground can play in achieving success at Valderrama is instilled in Nick Faldo to the bottom of his boots

## Periscope puts patient approach in perspective

LYNNE TRUSS



At Valderrama

Things are hotting up at Valderrama. Yesterday turned up in the catering outlets (ough luck for those of us who pawed pathetically at empty cold cabinets on Tuesday). Meanwhile, the marshals now give directions to the 5th tee without first looking blank and panicky; and if only a system of cable cars and helicopters was installed for the use of foot-weary hacks whose hair sticks flat to their heads when they are fagged with walking, the excitement would be almost unbearable.

The atmosphere is one of phoney war, I suppose. Every morning, you wake up with a jolt and think "It's started!"

And then you think, "No, hang on," and sink back strangely upset. Personally, I realise I've been artificially enhancing the suspense of waiting for tomorrow by blanking out all references to the American players, thus preserving their exotic mystery. "Oh look, Americans," I can say tomorrow. "Well howdy doody, is Tiger here?"

Accidentally spotting Scott Hoch on the driving range yesterday, I could only identify him by reading his name on his bag. Exactly as it should be, I thought, and instantly wiped out all memory of his face.

With the Europeans, on the other hand, one's attitude grows daily more unconditionally approving, as though they were pet lambs or something. Look, there's Monty and Woosie and, er, Langer and Parnevikkil. In the galleries, we chat in banal fashion

— "those yellow shirts are nice, aren't they?" Yes, but the green shirts yesterday were very nice, too.

It was one such, eager member of the public, carrying a home-made periscope (cardboard tube, sticky tape), who inspired me to visit the shop beside the 4th green and purchase for a mere 8,500 pesetas (or £35) an extendable periscope of my own. What larks, eh? It goes up, it goes down, but you can't do that funny thing of shutting your thumb in the handles. An absolutely vital piece of equipment, however, with hours of entertainment built in.

I've always fancied a periscope for a golf tournament, in any case — I'm a Wise Virgin type by temperament, and have admired the people who use them in matches shown on the telly. So much more elegant than carrying a great big stepladder about, cheaper, too, than hiring a forklift truck. In the pressroom, if spirits flag, I can now say "Hey! I've got an idea, let's play with my periscope" followed by "Hey, where did everybody go?"

Out on the course, the Americans were doubtless pursuing golfing activity of

ger galleries, some of them gladly masticating a sandwich instead of fainting with hunger as before.

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Out on the course, the Americans were doubtless pursuing golfing activity of

some kind (I didn't look) but the Europeans were dabbling in tourneys, bless their hearts. Foursomes is that outlandish practice by which team-mates take alternate shots and the whole thing moves along like a dose of salts on wheels with the wind behind it. The only problem with watching their foursomes yesterday was that this game looks like friendly exhibition rather than real golf. For example, Bjornie (as we call him) hit his first tee-shot into the trees; Monty rescued it brilliantly; smiles all round, even from Westwood. You see?

I keep thinking it's started but it hasn't. But just wait till tomorrow. Boy oh boy. Being here, the type is oddly attached to nothing at all, just "wait till Friday and meanwhile buy a periscope if you want to make your own entertainment". I loved the team photo session, but what must the players feel? Not a ball struck in anger yet and already the yellow and green shirts used up. Tomorrow, you can forget those first-day nerves. They will attack the ball like ravenous wolves and we shall all say "Hooray, hooray."

Meanwhile, there's time to notice that, aside from the black-and-yellow Johnnie Walker symbol everywhere you look, there's no sponsorship allowed. No Nike hats, no Pringle woollies. For some of these guys, being on the Ryder Cup team must feel like going into prison and having your personal effects confiscated by the admissions officer.

So roll on tomorrow. Sadly, a colleague has just pointed out to me that my lovely periscope resembles an offensive weapon — crushing news, but kindly meant. When tomorrow comes, and I draw it from its pistol-shaped leatherette case, it appears I may be rugby-tackled at the 1st green and frogmarched to Gibraltar. Amazingly, I am still looking forward to it, however.

Like the captain himself,

## Three wise men keep team stable

FROM MEL WEBB

ASK Severiano Ballesteros to hit a golf ball over a ten-ton high wall from a distance of six feet or through a small forest while kneeling down, and he will do it — and has — as though it were no more difficult than bending down to pick up the morning paper. There is one talent, however, that even *El Gran Señor* still does not have, and that is the ability to be in two places at once. Enter Team Ballesteros.

When the big decisions are made at Valderrama this week, Ballesteros will be on his own, and that is the way he would want it never in his life had he dodged the taking of responsibility. But he will not be alone and isolated in the making of those decisions, for beside him he has three aides-de-camp who, between them, can boast three parts of a century of golfing know-how.

Ballesteros' lieutenants here are the vice-captain, Miguel Angel Jiménez, Mark James and Tommy Horton.

As the temperature inside heads and hearts has risen among the European team this week, the gang of three have been constantly at their sides, reassuring, cajoling, encouraging, sympathising.

They have to be all things to all the leading characters in this sporting grand opera. They are Ballesteros' eyes and ears by proxy and a mixture of coach, counsellor and confidant to the players, all working to the common cause of making the whole greater than its constituent officer.

Like the captain himself, James and Jiménez are new to the subtle arts of leading from outside the ropes. Solid and dependable, both as players and people, they provide a calming counterpoint to the passion and fire that burns within the Ballesteros belly.

"I see my strength as being close to the players because I'm still out there, playing alongside them, on a weekly basis," James said. "I feel pretty close to them, the young

ones included, and I'd like to feel that, if they are particularly happy with a pairing — or not, for that matter — they can come to me and I'll listen. In that way, I suppose, I am a sort of a conduit, a link between the players and Seve."

"In the practice days, I'm assessing all the pairings and reporting back to Seve. He has his ideas as to what he wants, but, if things are not working, we mustn't be afraid to tell him."

First, he boled out with a wedge from the fairway, then, to the delight of the spectators, he and Woods demonstrated the art of the flop shot from the fringe at the back of the green to a pin a few yards away — too little flop and the ball was likely to run back down the hill into the water, too much and it would stay at the player's feet.

As the players turned to go, a voice yelled: "Hit it backwards." There was a pause — and puzzlement. The voice bellowed again: "Hit it backwards." A brief discussion followed and Mickelson placed his ball on the grass beside one of the bunkers in the hill behind the green.

He then faced away from the green, looked back to check that Woods was safely out of the line of fire and, opening the face of the club, hit the ball high in the air, over his own head on to the green. There was pandemonium after this piece of prestidigitation, a party trick that Mickelson used to practise in the back yard at home.

It will now be discussed in golf club bars all over Europe but not, one hopes, attempted. Woods, Couples and Love, temporarily eclipsed, just laughed. Mickelson was the man of the moment and, when things get more serious, there is every chance that he will turn out to be one of the men of the match.

James: close to players

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# FOOTBALL

## Merson finds a new direction far from home

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

**PAUL MERSON**, the former Arsenal striker, has had his problems with drink, drugs and gambling, which he is gradually overcoming, but his move to Middlesbrough three months ago has hardly helped the healing process. He now has to make a daily 600-mile round trip to Teesside, from his home in Hertfordshire, and he admits it is starting to affect his family life.

"I have to get up at 6.45 in the morning to get to training and I sometimes feel tired even before I get there," he said. "I'm finding it hard to settle, and it's tough for me at the moment, but I'm determined to make a go of it with Middlesbrough. I love the club and the players and the football has been brilliant."

Although Merson has looked at houses in the North East, his wife, Lorraine, is not

keen to move to the area and uproot their three children. "Whatever happens, my family wishes have to come first," Merson said. "To see as much of the kids as possible, I'm on the train every day and then I'm back again in the evening."

Middlesbrough's game against Barnet at Underhill on Tuesday night, in the Coca-Cola Cup second round, gave Merson a welcome respite. "I was able to get away after our home match against Birmingham City on Saturday, go home for a few days and meet up with the team just before the game," he said. "I just hope we get Arsenal in the next round."

The rest appeared to do him good. Merson scored his second goal for the club, a penalty, since he joined them from Arsenal for £4.5 million

**PALLISTER profits from referee's screen test**

By DAVID MADDOCK

**THE** Football Association yesterday overturned the red card given to Gary Pallister, the Manchester United defender, in the game against Bolton Wanderers last Saturday.

Pallister was sent off by Paul Durkin after the referee saw him as "raising his fists" in a confrontation with Nathan Blake, who was also dismissed. Pallister, and Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, denied the charge vehemently.

After watching a video of the incident, Durkin admitted that he had got it wrong. "Paul Durkin decided he wanted to look at a video of the match before he filled in his report," an FA spokesman said yesterday. "On the video he saw the incident from a different angle and he has

said in his report that he now thinks the offence was only a yellow card."

Pallister said: "I am glad that it has ended this way, because I really did not believe I should have been sent off. The referee told me afterwards I was dismissed for raising my fist but I did not do that and I think the video evidence supports me."

"It would have been painful to have served a suspension for something that I did not do."

Durkin's decision is another illustration of the new mood within the FA, which increasingly has allowed video evidence to be used in the defence of players. In the past, the English game's governing body had flatly refused to allow television recordings to aid an accused party's case.

## FOOTBALL

**TUESDAY'S late results**

**FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP:** Bolton Wanderers 1, Tottenham Hotspur 1; Wimbledon 4, Barnsley 1.

P W D L F A Pts

Man Utd ... 7 5 2 0 10 1 17

Arsenal ... 7 4 3 0 16 8 15

Blackburn ... 7 4 2 1 18 8 14

Leicester ... 7 4 2 1 10 5 14

Chelsea ... 6 4 0 2 18 8 12

Liverpool ... 7 3 3 1 11 5 12

West Ham ... 7 3 1 3 10 9 10

Newcastle ... 4 3 0 1 5 4 9

C Palace ... 7 3 0 4 5 8 9

Coventry ... 7 3 0 3 2 8 8

Tottenham ... 7 3 0 5 8 13

Wimbledon ... 7 2 2 3 10 10 11

Everton ... 6 2 1 3 8 10

Leeds ... 7 2 1 4 8 11

Bolton ... 7 1 4 2 5 9

Derby ... 5 2 0 3 5 5 6

Barnsley ... 8 2 0 6 7 21

Sheff Wed ... 7 1 2 4 7 15

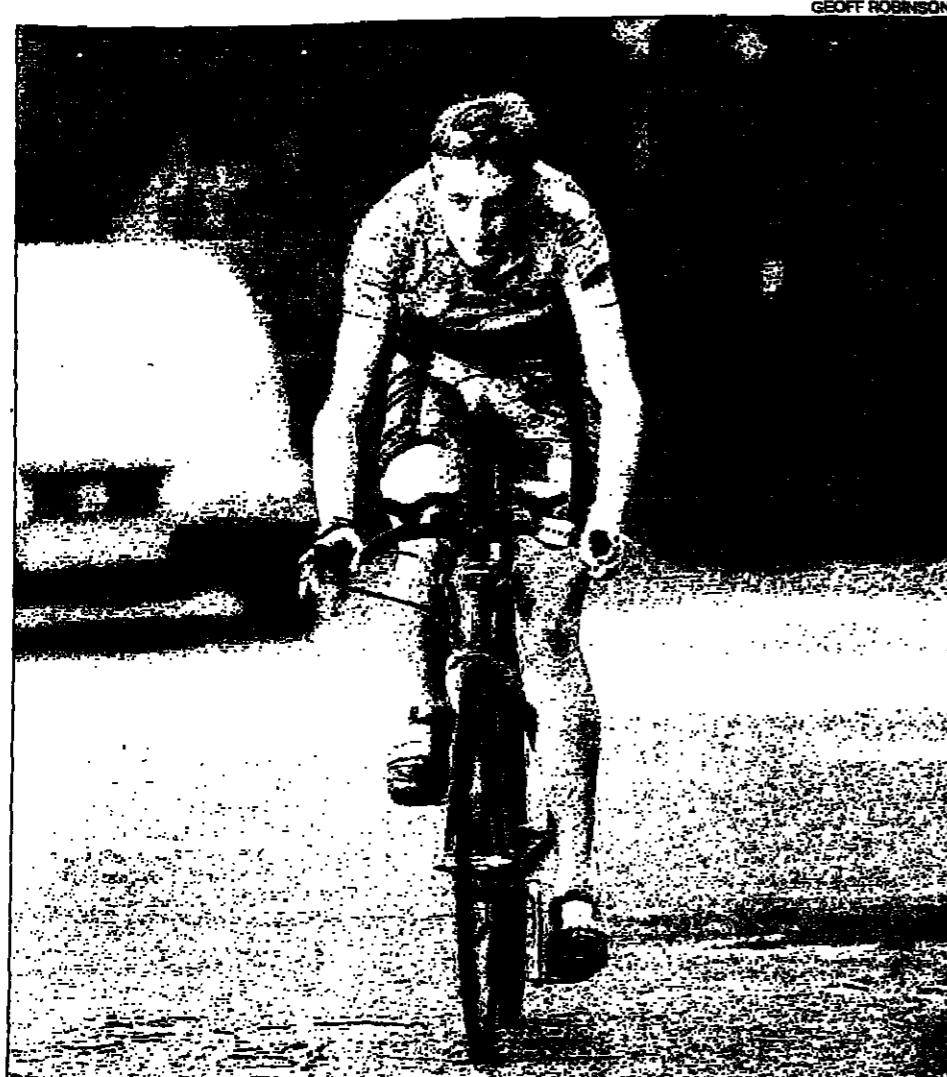
Southport ... 7 1 1 5 5 11

COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, second leg: Barnet 0, Middlesbrough 2 (Middlebrough won 4-0 on agg); Bristol 0, Bolton 1 (Bolton won 2-0 on agg); Peterborough 0, Reading 2 (Reading won 2-0 on agg); Sheffield United 4, Watford 0 (Sheffield United won 5-1 on agg); Stockport County 0, Macclesfield 2 (Macclesfield won 5-3 on agg); Torquay 0, Luton 3 (Torquay won 4-1 on agg); Tranmere 0, Notts County 1 (Tranmere won 2-1 on agg); West Bromwich 4, Luton 2 (West Bromwich won 5-3 on agg); York 1, Cheltenham 2 (Cheltenham won 2-0 on agg); Oxford United 0, Southport 0 (Oxford United won 5-1 on agg).

**VAUXHALL CONFERENCE:** Cheltenham 1, Stourbridge 1, Yeovil 1, Kidderminster 0.

**UNIBOND LEAGUE:** Premier division: Barrow 3, Redcar 0, Blyth Spartans 2, Spennymoor 3; Colwyn Bay 3, Barber Bridge 1; Fleetwood 2, Altrincham 1; Gainsborough 3; Lincolnshire Cleethorpes 1; Louth 1; Morecambe 2; North Stanley 1; Preston 1; Eastwood 10; Lincoln 3; Fleetwood 1; Great Harwood 0; Netherfield 1; Grimsby 3; Driffield 2; Hambleton 2; Stockton 2; Darlington 2; Whitley Bay 1; Hartlepool 1; Workington 1; Trafford 5.

**DR MARTENS LEAGUE:** Premier division: Bath 1, Gloucester 0; Cambridge City 3; Farnham 3; Halesowen 5; Greyestown 2; Hastings 1; Crawley 2; Kings' Lynn 2; Burton 1; Tamworth 2; Bradford 0; Bury 1; Oldham 0; Bury 2; Evesham 3; Sutton Coldfield Town 4; Hinckley 3; Walsall 2; Walsall 2; Walsall 3; Walsall 4; Walsall 5; Walsall 6; Walsall 7; Walsall 8; Walsall 9; Walsall 10; Walsall 11; Walsall 12; Walsall 13; Walsall 14; Walsall 15; Walsall 16; Walsall 17; Walsall 18; Walsall 19; Walsall 20; Walsall 21; Walsall 22; Walsall 23; Walsall 24; Walsall 25; Walsall 26; Walsall 27; Walsall 28; Walsall 29; Walsall 30; Walsall 31; Walsall 32; Walsall 33; Walsall 34; Walsall 35; Walsall 36; Walsall 37; Walsall 38; Walsall 39; Walsall 40; Walsall 41; Walsall 42; Walsall 43; Walsall 44; Walsall 45; Walsall 46; Walsall 47; Walsall 48; Walsall 49; Walsall 50; Walsall 51; Walsall 52; Walsall 53; Walsall 54; Walsall 55; Walsall 56; Walsall 57; Walsall 58; Walsall 59; Walsall 60; Walsall 61; Walsall 62; 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Adams has little alternative but to train for his record attempt on the roads, while in-line skating is another sport poorly catered for

## Cyclists find nowhere to ride

The latest sport for some of our policemen, it seems, is harrassing people for "exercising furiously" on the highway.

It always used to be said that one of the great social values of sport was that it kept kids off the streets. But you should try telling that to Tony Adams or the army of in-line skaters who hone their hearts, lungs and legs on the parks and pavements of our land.

Adams is the Cambridge cyclist who this week fell foul of an obscure 150-year-old law drafted to deal with horsemen galloping too quickly. He was prosecuted for "cycling furiously" after police spotted him in the early hours of the morning in training for an attempt on one of the toughest of cycling records.

He was doing about 25mph in a 30mph zone but, while drivers could carve him up without breaking the speed limit, he was pulled in for flouting an ancient horse law. Adams, 24, a postal worker,



says that he wants to attack the one-hour record, held by Chris Boardman, of Britain, the former Olympic pursuit champion, who covered 56.38 kilometres (just over 35 miles) in the Manchester Velodrome a year ago.

This is a record much envied and respected in France, where the gendarmes would wave aside the traffic and cheer any cyclist bold enough to train for a crack at it.

Here, though, Adams faces up to three months in prison after refusing to pay the £120 fine slapped on him for offending the Town Police Clauses Act of 1847. He was stopped on one of his regular training

routes and it was the early hours of the morning, prompting the question: if he cannot train for his record attempt on the roads, where in Britain can he work out?

For a country that has probably the poorest provision of dedicated cycling paths in Europe, it is remarkable that Britain produces any competitive cyclists. They are not alone among would-be sportsmen and women who are attracting the hostile attention of the authorities because they have nowhere else to exercise.

The most hated are in-line skaters, of whom there are now millions worldwide. In the United States, they rule the parks in London, the pavements in Paris, the streets.

There are plenty who would like to see them banned.

The speed of in-line skaters has been measured, using radar guns. They have been clocked exceeding 20mph and there has been a lobby to restrict or ban their activities. It cannot be long before some ancient

law is dug up to turn the streets into a no-go area for them.

However, like the Lycra brigade of bicycle couriers who tear around the streets of our cities, the in-line skaters are one of the few groups who look like healthy sportsmen in training. Only small and elite groups of professional sportsmen and women can match them for strength, co-ordination and endurance.

Ironically, the Sports Council this week chose Cambridge (where you can end up in court, for cycling too vigorously) to hold a convention on the dangers of the sedentary life-style of the young. Four hundred delegates from schools and local authorities were warned that lack of exercise among school pupils was creating "an obesity time bomb".

The Sports Council called for a minimum of two hours' exercise a week for children, and quoted figures saying that the average youngster now walks 50 miles a year fewer than a decade ago — and cycles ten miles a year fewer.

However, with so many of our playing fields sold off, and with parks covered in "No ball games" and "No skating" signs, it is no wonder that the streets become their playgrounds.

The police are rightly worried about safety, but if we are genuinely concerned about the health, weight and sporting prowess of our young, there must be more safe and dedicated areas for the bladers, the cyclists and the runners who are now forced to share the streets with the traffic.

There is much talk of vast sums of National Lottery money being doled out to improve the standard of British sport, so why not some of it into providing off-the-street facilities for a sport like in-line skating? For all its trendy image, many might think it more of a genuine sport than, say, ballroom dancing, and anyone who thinks that it is just a passing fad should be aware that the first in-line skates appeared in the 1700s.

In 1760, Joseph Merlin, a member of the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences and a maker of musical instruments, turned up on his wheeled skates in a London ballroom, playing the violin. As he hurtled towards a large mirror, he discovered that it was impossible to turn or brake on his new invention. Merlin survived. The violin and the mirror did not.

Today, if we are going to survive as a nation of players, rather than spectators, we are going to have to supply the sporting facilities for our young, to keep them off the streets. The police might not like it, but British sport needs a lot more people "exercising furiously".

JOHN BRYANT

### WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 45

**GAYDANG**  
(e) An Amazzone (Vietnamese) vessel, somewhat resembling a Chinese junk. The Gaydang is a vessel of Anam [sic] generally with two, but in fine weather with three masts with lofty triangular sails."

**GROSCHEN**  
(b) Before the establishment of the present German monetary system, a small silver coin and money of account variously 1/24, 1/30, or 1/36 of a ducat. From the Middle High German *gross*, *gross*, *Carlyle, Sartor Resartus*, 1831: "Their flag had you sold it at any marke cross, would not have brought above three groschen."

**FASCIET**  
(c) A tool used to introduce glass bottles into the annealing oven. Merrett, *Neri's Art of Glass*, 1662: "Fasciet are irons thrust into the bottle to carry them to anneal."

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**

10-0-0! invokes the double threats of Kxb2 and Rds mate. Black has no good reply.



### TELEVISION CHOICE

## A new comic triangle

Dad  
BBC 8.30pm

The traditionally twitchy triangle of grandfather, father and son is the basis for Andrew Marshall's new six-part comedy. If you liked his *2punkt Children* you should like this even better because, if nothing else, *Dad* is a vehicle for George Cole, returning to BBC comedy after a gap of 20 years. He plays Brian, the kind of benevolent fop we love to hate — the man who never listens, insists he knows all the answers and in fact knows just enough to infuriate his family. Son Allan is played by Kevin McNally with a fine sense of comic timing even though most of what he must do is stare askance at his father and his own son (Toby Ross-Bryant) apparent failure to make contact with the real world. His wife Beryl (Julia Hills) is the gentle force which binds them all together.

The Uninvited

ITV 9.00pm  
Just when you thought there were no further storylines to be wrung from aliens and outer space along comes Peter Bowker with a straight-faced account in four one-hour chunks — of how an alien force just could be infiltrating human society. Not much of a new idea until you see the techniques the "force" uses — such as tipping whole villages into the sea with the miraculous survival of all the villagers, who then begin to rise to positions of eminence in the land. Leslie Grantham, who supplied the original idea, plays the village cop who now rides high in the police establishment and is apparently chummy with British Nuclear Power and the Ministry of Defence. Watch for an absolutely mesmerising underwater sequence when the hero of the piece — a nosy photographer played by Douglas Hodge — investigates for himself the mysteries of the village under the sea.

Horizon: Out of Africa

BBC2, 9.25pm  
It's lovely when a programme turns accepted wisdom on its ear — and *Horizon* does it so elegantly. For those who thought that man originated in Africa and gradually spread north, Australian archaeologists, anthropologists and geneticists have got news. Their idea is that not



Clarke and Hemingway (BBC1, 9.30pm)

only could we have originated in South-East Asia but that *Homo erectus* (now thought to be a direct ancestor and not an evolutionary dead end) used tools and was capable of travelling from Java (Java Man) to Australia. This places him at more than one million years old — and the programme has the fossils and much more to prove it. The inevitable sceptics are on hand to mutter through their beards about "inconclusive evidence" but you get carried along with the flow and the implications — that our origins may not be with Mother Africa at all — are breathtaking.

The Locksmith

BBC1, 9.30pm  
"Round The Clock We'll Fix That Lock" is the slogan on Roland's van and Roland himself comes across as a very law-abiding solid citizen — caught to a T by the excellent Warren Clarke, who is ably assisted in the comedy stakes by his gormless helper Barry (Chris Gascoyne). But Stephen Bill's six-part is no comedy and as events evolve a darker, even dangerous side to Roland's character emerges as he takes on the role of a vigilante out to avenge his estranged wife's attack by a burglar. It is the mysterious, masked burglar whose break-ins link each move forward in the plot — a plot which includes Roland and his wife coming together again when their vagrant daughter is found in a hippy commune. Polly Hemingway plays Roland's girlfriend Elizabeth Cowley.

### RADIO CHOICE

Thursday Afternoon Play: Fossils  
Radio 4, 2.00pm

Polly Miller is a young actress new to radio but she plays Lou, the leading role in this intriguing play, with a sureness of touch that suggests more will be heard of her before long. The same could be said for the writer, Andy Rattenbury, whose first radio play this is. The title works nicely in several respects — on several layers, so to speak — for it concerns Lou's return home after ten years abroad and her attempts to unravel the life of her dead father George (Jim Carter), a palaeontologist who has come to haunt Lou's dreams and therefore becomes the obsessive focus of her waking life. This and Lou's related need to deal with the antipathy of her living family become the keys to unlocking the grisly truth. Peter Barnard

### RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe Breakfast Show 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lorraine 7.30 The Longest Day 8.00 BBC Radio 1's 16th Annual Stockport City Festival in the BBC Radio 1 Studio 10.15 BBC Radio 1's 16th Annual Stockport City Festival in the BBC Radio 1 Studio 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Cave Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

### RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Walk Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Joanne 1.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 4.00 John Peel 7.00 David Allen's Country Club 4.00 Paul O'Grady 7.00 The Denzel Williams Show 9.30 BBC Radio 2's 16th Annual Stockport City Festival in the BBC Radio 1 Studio 10.15 BBC Radio 1's 16th Annual Stockport City Festival in the BBC Radio 1 Studio 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Steve Macdonald 3.00 Alex Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Mark Radcliffe Breakfast Show 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday 2.00pm Rusco on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Ryder Cup Years. In the last of the series, Tony Adamson takes a look at Europe's recent successes in the 70-year-old competition 6.00 Inside Edge 7.00 Mark Thompson with sports news, including the latest from America, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 8.00 Ryders Cup 10.00 Inside Sport 11.00 The Denzel Williams Show 12.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra with Valerie Sanderson 12.00 After Hours with Paul Hemmings and Sheila McClelland 2.00pm Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

### RADIO 6 MUSIC

6.00am Alan Partridge 6.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Listener Request Hour 2.00 Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crichton 7.00 Newswatch 7.30 Sonata Faure (Cello Sonata No 2 in F minor); Brahms (Nanie); Berlioz (Harold in Italy) 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

### VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ and Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dens 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Nick Abbot 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Chopin (Nocturne in F sharp minor); Respighi (Fountains of Rome); Verdi (Aida); Salomone di Rovereto (Missa); Berio (Canticorum); Cimarosa (String Quartet in D)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Bolcom (Concerto in E minor); Schubert (Die Schlingfliess); Grieg (Lyric Pieces); Liszt (Mephisto)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nicola Heywood Thomas, including Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Mozart (Ruhige Sanft, Mein Hohes Leben); Haydn (String Quartet in D minor); Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 2 in D); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor); Strauss (Mehmen Kinder Fröhlingstein)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Pizzetti, introduced by Susan Sharpe

1.00pm Opera, with Rodney Grindberg; talk to the German batonist Frank Grindberg about the title role in Berg's Wozzeck. Featuring a recording of the opera he made with Daniel Barenboim conducting

2.00 The BBC Orchestra, Brahms Variations on a Theme by Johann Sebastian Bach (Double Violin Concerto in E minor); conductor Osmo Vanska; Mata Lehmann, cello; Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 2 in C minor, Little Russian); conductor Marilyn Brahms

4.00 Ensemble: Penny Gore introduces a recital by Louri Blake, cello, and Iwan Llewellyn-Jones, piano. Bach (Solo Cello Suite No 1 in G); Mendelssohn (Cello Sonata No 1 in B flat) (r)

### RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.45 A Boy at the Hogarth Press Jamie Glover reads Richard Kennedy's classic memoir (4/5) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News; Extra 9.30 Weather 10.00 News 11.30 Look Homeward, Angel 10.30 Newham asks questions of identity and tells stories of culture shock from a child's perspective (2/3)

10.00 News; One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, by Dave Sheesby, with Gerard McElderry as Ken and Gillian Allard as Margaret (6/6)

10.15 Daily Service (LW) 11.00 Weather 11.30 Woman with Jenni Murray 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent: Reports from BBC correspondents around the world

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm Out of Order, See Choice 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World At One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: *Festina*, by Andy Ruffell, with Jenni Murray

3.00 News; The American Shift, with Dale Bremer 4.00 News; 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen sees a new play, *Calysto Thump*, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, and reads a history of the British railway

4.45 Short Story: *The World Covered in Gold*, by Philip Coker, read by Paul McGann

5.00 News; Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.55 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

### RADIO 5

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 First Impressions. Pets McCarthy chairs the panel and for impressions. With Alastair McGowan, Steve Rawlins and guests Jon Culshaw and Peter Serafinowicz. Recorded at the Edinburgh in Edinburgh

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 News 7.30 A Pretty Face: The Miss America

pageant and some of the remarkable women who won the title

8.00 Whitehall and the Bafflers. Christopher Harvie concludes his investigation into the changing relationship between scientists and politicians since the Second World War (2/2)

8.45 Singing Women. Lesley Joseph recreates her stage role as a person of restricted growth whose performance is under threat (3/4)

9.00 Does He Take Sugar?

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r)

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book Bedtime: *Lullabying with Intent*, Anne Massey reads Muriel Spark's comic novel (4/12)

11.00 Peer on Four; Tepping, by Colin Haydn Evans: A boyish noise has haunted Tom for thirty years. But today has a plan (2/5)

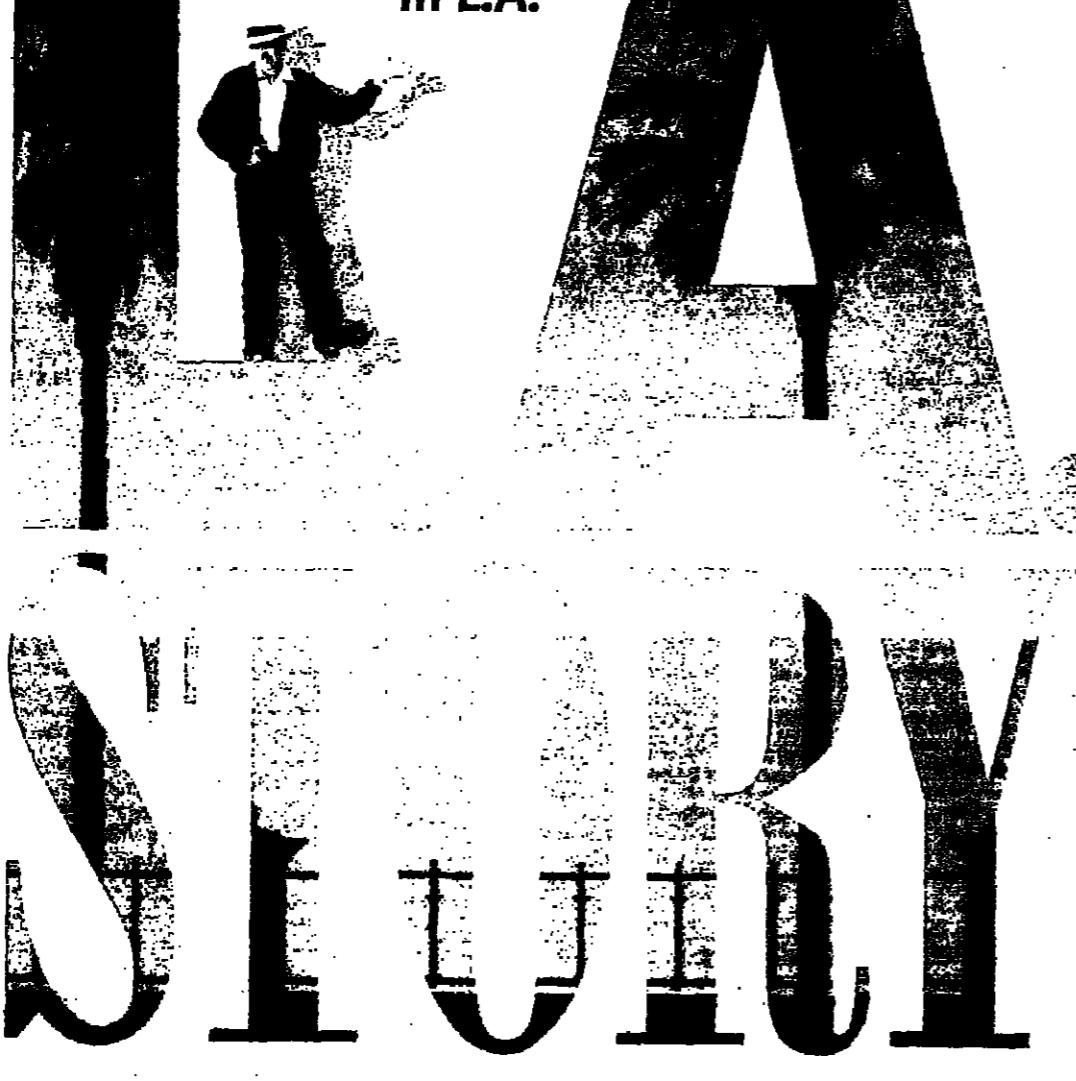
11.30 A Pedlar in the Pond, Sherna McDonald talks to Patrick Cox, bedmate to the stars, about an event from his childhood (r)

12.00 News and Weather

12.30pm The Late Book: *Light in August*, by William Faulkner, read by Ed Bishop (4/12)

12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

Something Funny Is Happening In L.A.



# Sea-faring yarn unravels before our eyes

You can't say that ITV shrinks from a scheduling challenge, because it certainly acted bravely in interrupting the flow of last night's two-hour drama, *The Ebb Tide*, halfway through. By handing over to *News At Ten* midway, ITV gave us a chance to pause, to reflect and then to surprise ourselves by the unfamiliar conclusions we had reached. Principally, the conclusion that even news highlights of the Liberal Democrats' annual conference in Eastbourne can seem magnetic; it all depends what you're comparing them to. Since yesterday happened to be the day of the party leader's conference speech, we also appreciated that even someone as imaginative as Spielberg would find it tough to match Paddy Ashdown when it comes to portraying a fantastical world that bears no plausible relation to reality but which, for a harmless couple of hours, be-

witches us by its audacity. And *The Ebb Tide* wasn't even Spielberg.

Let's be positive: if you have ever lost sleep at night, worrying about what this Robert Louis Stevenson short story hadn't yet been turned into a television drama, at least now you know the answer.

*The Ebb Tide* was a slight story made lighter — paradoxically — by the fact that someone had decided to make a big fuss about it. It withered under the hot lights of attention. Having spotted Robbie Coltrane being interviewed on television the other day, and learnt that he had a passionate interest in the workings of all kinds of engines, you might assume he would have searched out the motor driving this film. Did he ever locate it? To me, it all seemed as gripping as loose knicker elastic.

Coltrane is rarely less than engaging. He served ably enough as Captain Chisholm, who sails a decrepit ship from the Caribbean

towards Australia, with a dubious cargo of vintage champagne. But Coltrane didn't seem as sharp as he has been in the roles — most recently *Fitz* in *Cracker* — that presumably led to his being offered this part in the first place.

Or maybe he was embarrassed by the script, which clunked every time it clicked the plot forward. "Est-ce que tu as une famille?" Captain Chisholm was asked one evening, out of the blue, by a black galley slave who had just delivered Coltrane's supper to him on deck.

"Do I have a family? Ooh yes," replied Chisholm as he launched into one of those expository speeches that sound as natural as Margaret Thatcher singing *Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey?*

"Yes, I've got a wee girl called Adar. Her mother named her that. Her mother Fiona. She came from the Hebridean islands off the west

## REVIEW

Joe Joseph



coast of Scotland. You don't understand a word I'm saying, son, do you?" No he doesn't, but don't let that stop you, cap'n. It didn't.

"Adar. It wasn't a name I'd heard of either till that wee girl was born. A bonny thing she was, too. She had red hair from her mother, cascading down her body like waves. A wee angel..." Oh, you get the picture. You half expected him to say, as your

history master used to: "You may take notes if you wish."

Things go wrong when Chisholm discovers that the champagne bottles are empty, that the hull is rotten, and that he has been guiled into captaining the vessel as part of some insurance fraud.

Coltrane locks himself in his cabin and gets blind drunk. Why? Luckily, Chisholm's wastrel of a sidekick, Billy Bunch, was on hand to enlighten us: "This is exactly what happened before, when he went mad... his daughter and his wife took it all. Maybe they shouldn't have been at sea with him together. Anyway, the baby recovered, but his wife died. I've never seen a man go mad with grief. After she died, he drank mad. Then, we ran aground. Chisholm was blind drunk. Twenty-seven people lost their lives. The wee baby girl survived. She's back in Scotland now. Adar. She must be five years

old now." OK everyone, you can put your notebooks down again.

If you can believe it, things then got even worse. "That cloud does not look good," said the galley slave. This was an understatement. It looked like God had split a year's supply of Quink black ink over a large slice of the sky.

This was another piece of dramatic shorthand, alerting you to the fact that it was safe to go and make a cup of coffee because the next few minutes would be taken up with the ship being tossed around like a pooh stick going down the Colorado rapids.

Chisholm and his crew were supposed to be 2,000 miles from any land. But as dawn broke it turned out that they were 500 yards from an island, now deserted but for a spooky, Kurtz-like figure with a large hoard of pearls and a wardrobe of dapper cream linen suits: a sort of Kurtz-Lite.

A few more things happened after that: various people got killed, and it all had something to do with Chisholm's search for redemption, but it was hard to care who had survived and who hadn't. Coltrane is a big man who needs a meaty meal to sink his teeth into: *The Ebb Tide* was a snack.

It was the capstone to a long evening of improbable television. In *Animal People* (BBC1) we saw penguins in the suburbs of Wellington, New Zealand, which have become so used to city life that they now waddle out of the sea and into the local discotheque when they fancy wagging their bottoms to actual music. Nobody stops them. The narrator of *There's A Penguin In The House* was Peter Sallis, whose distinctive voice we previously heard on Nick Park's animated penguin escapade, *The Wrong Trousers*. Presumably, an in-joke. But still not as funny a joke as those madcap Lib Dems.

10.20 *Business Breakfast* (60944)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (9873835)

9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (2621632)

9.30 Style Challenge (1469532)

9.55 *Kilroy* (T) (6181293)

10.35 Change That! (1508019)

11.00 News (T) and weather (4870187)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (3810106)

11.35 Room for Improvement (241108)

12.00 News (T) and weather (6340309)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (9548800)

12.35 Going for a Song (9524361)

1.00 News (T) and weather (16309)

1.30 Regional News (T) (17426187)

1.40 The Weather Show (8720380)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (77154380)

2.10 *Quincy* (T) (6295629)

3.00 Through the Keyhole (7882748)

3.25 The Really Useful Show Update (4847458)

3.30 Funnybones (7270800) 3.35 Playdays (1896108) 3.35 The Silver Brumby (8190222) 4.20 Mr Wynn (2683187) 4.35 Cartoon Critters (6895564) 5.00 Newsround (T) (9927800) 5.10 Byker Grove (T) (5996496)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (1508038)

6.00 News (T) and weather (545)

6.30 Regional News (125)

7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson

Why a non-stop car alarm is driving neighbours round the bend, and the manufacturers who overcharge for car parts (T) (8729)

7.30 EastEnders A bit of detective work puts Pauline on an important find. May's cover could be blown if Sean's discovery becomes widely known. Ruth and Con leave the family problems behind when they take Lucy fishing (T) (3083)

8.00 Animal Hospital New series presented by Rolf Harris (T) (7477)

8.30 *Dad* New comedy series with George Cole and Kevin McNally. Alan Hock worries what to buy his son for his 18th birthday (T) (9212)

9.00 News (T) and weather (5854)

9.30 *The Locksmith* New six-part drama with Warren Clarke and Chris Gascoyne. An ordinary man becomes a vigilante when he is accused of viciously attacking his estranged wife (T) (30458)

10.20 QED: Challenging Children Profile of gifted four-year-old Chantelle Coleman (T) (713309)

11.00 Question Time David Dimbleby prepares as a London studio audience questions the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, Anne Widdecombe, MP, Liberal Democrat agriculture spokesman Charles Kennedy, and Rosie Boycott, Editor of the *Independent On Sunday* (T) (126854)

12.05am Face of a Stranger (1991) with Gena Rowlands and Tyne Daly. A rich socialite is left suddenly penniless when her husband dies. She befriends a "bag lady" across the street and the two draw comfort from their friendship. Directed by Claudia Weill (594065)

1.40 Weather (2892201)

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6.00am Open University (60944)

6.25 Missing the Meaning? (T) (4410670)

6.50 Jamaica and the Sea (5218670)

7.15 See Her Breakfast News (T) (and spring) (4358090)

7.30 *The Adventures of Stiggy* (T) (6456767)

7.55 Blue Peter (T) (7) (5151545) 8.20

Mouse and Motor (T) (7009880) 8.30

Johnson and Friends (2464950) 8.45

Teletubbies (1033833) 9.00 Cartoon (4862563) 9.10 *Cartoon Outside* (7047922) 10.00 *Storytime* (3767584) 10.45

The Experimenter (3624495) 11.00

Space Ark (884380) 11.15 Zog Zag (2024212) 11.35 English File (2489485)

11.55 Lifeschool (2492212) 12.20pm Showcase (3342767)

12.30 Working Lunch (74748)

1.00 *Bearney* (3743583) 1.05 Monty (7343583) 1.10 *The Craft Hour* (5185516) 2.10 *Wildlife on Two* (n) (3174152) 2.40 *News* (T) (188516)

2.45 Match of the Seventies (T) (3736019) 3.25 *Regional News* (T) (7658800) 3.30 Real Rooms. Reviving the splendour of an Edwardian dining room (903) 4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (598) 4.30 Going, Going, Gone (694835) 4.55 Esther (1494926) 5.30 Today's The Day (274)

6.00 Deep Space Nine (T) (925283)

6.45 The O Zone A round-up of the top sounds from this year's music festivals (485800)

7.00 Open to Question Young people put their questions or devotion to Peter Mandelson (T) (9889)

7.30 Levitation David Waller asks David Steel, John Biffen and Roy Hattersley whether the stage-managed party conferences of today can capture the spontaneous drama of yesterday (T) (651)

8.00 *The Air Show* The spectacular approach to Kai Tak airport in Hong Kong; and passenger planes which act as cargo carriers (T) (2019) WALES: Anchors Away

8.30 *Test Gear* The new Jaguar XJ; Aston Martin Vantage; Mercedes SLK and Porsche Boxster (T) (7854)

9.00 Third Rock from the Sun (T) (395308)

9.25 *Horizon: Out of Asia* New research into the origins of mankind (T) (378564)

10.15 *Volcano Stories* (750623)

10.30 *Newstart* (T) (480900) 11.15 Late Review (291187) 12.00 Weather (300341) 12.05 *Duckman* (3208881)

12.30 Learning Zone: International Enterprise (59423) 1.00 A Question of Evidence (30959) 1.30 Psychology in Action (79336) 2.00 Understanding Organisations (23317) 4.00 The French Experience (12387) 5.00 Business and Work (27133)

5.30 *Horizon: The Uninvited* The first episode in a four-part science-fiction thriller. With Douglas Hodge and Leslie Grantham (T) (7564)

10.05 Political Broadcast: Labour (T) (933038)

10.35 *Regional News* (879729)

11.20 *Celtic Fests* (T) (807632)

11.25 *The Big Story* (752931)

12.25 *Wacky World News* (3260423)

10.45 *News* (T) and weather (2248670)

11.35 *Frize Frame* (T) (743125)

11.50 *Swift Justice* (342380) 12.40am Sound Bites (342380) 12.55 *The LADS* (T) (3605591) 1.25 *Profiles: Wet Wet Wet* (8504666) 1.35 Ed's Night Party (4188510) 2.20 *Love and Loud* (T) (7611626) 3.15 *Waterlines* (T) (6918859) 3.40 *Good Sex Guide* (T) (2935355) 4.35 *The Place* (T) (6918859) 5.00 *Garden Calendar* (T) (31235404) 5.30 *News* (T) (1751) 5.30 *Deep Space Nine* (T) (925283)

5.30 *Countdown* (T) (3605591)

5.55 *Merlin* (T) (6918859)

6.00 *Merlin* (T) (6918859)

6.15 *Slot Mynthrin* (38791361)

6.30 *Wil Cwac Cwac* (33796816)

6.30 *Mark Tully's Faces of India* (68187)

2.00 *Film: Five Fingers* (4477)

4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (105)

4.30 *The Feel Good Factor* (390)

5.00 *5 Pump* (4903)

5.30 *Countdown* (670)

6.00 *Newdiddion* (508545)

